



# Coherent Flow Structures in the Flame Trench Pressure Environment

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NASA Kennedy Space Center



# Outline

## Motivation/Introduction

*Introduction to the launch environment flow and jet impingement problem.*

## Computational Methods

*Overview of tools and setup used for simulations.*

## Jet Impingement Model Problem

*Analysis of jet impingement problem.*

## Falcon Heavy: Pressure Environment

*Final application of pressure environment analysis.*

## Summary & Future Work

*Overview of results and what tasks lie ahead.*

Motivation:

# The Launch Environment



Significant resources have been spent to develop the materials and structure to withstand the harsh conditions of vehicle launches.

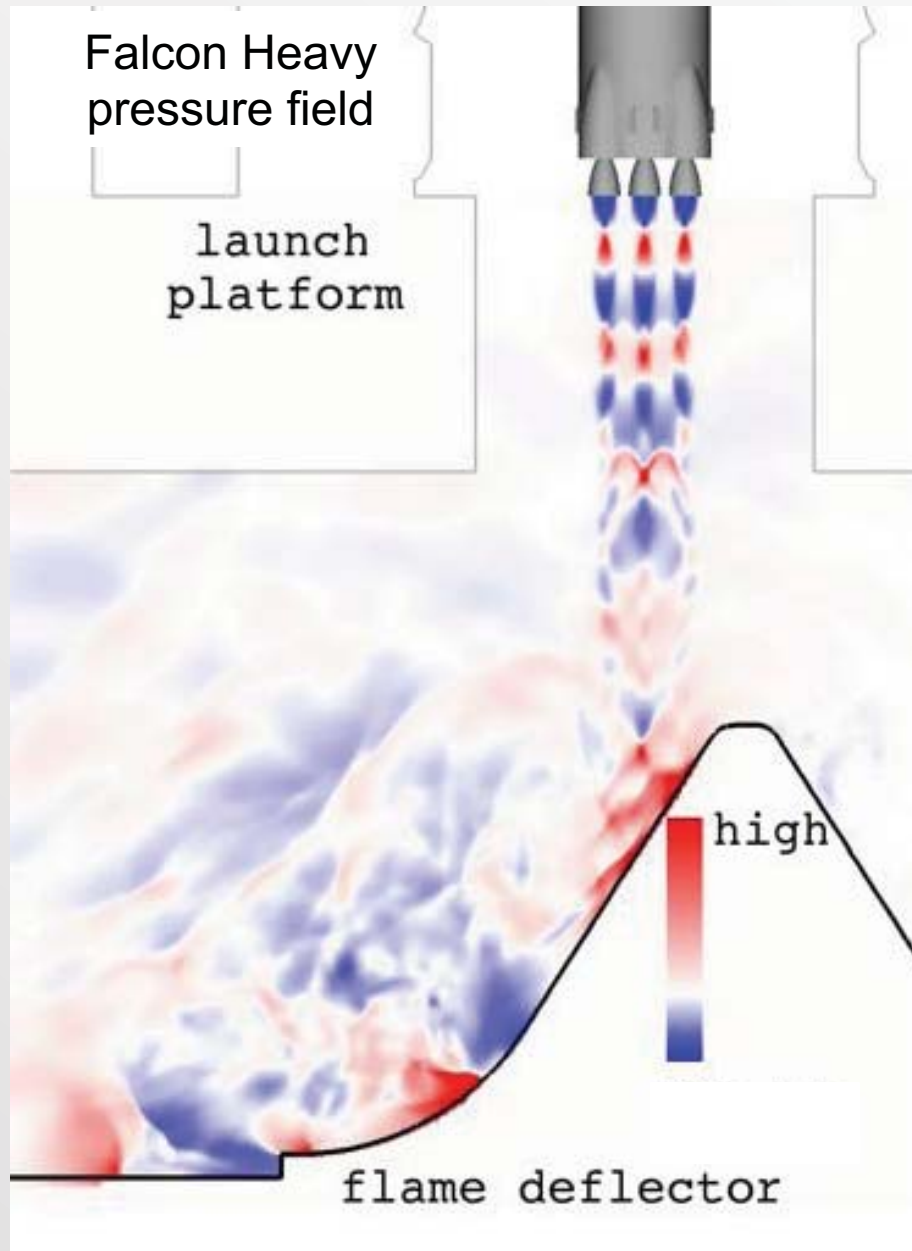
The launch environment is highly complex in terms of geometric details and flow physics.





Jet Impingement Problem:

# Pressure Environment



Motivated by CFD prediction requirements of launch pressure environments in the flame trench.



damage after STS-124 launch

## Background:

# Jet Impingement Problem

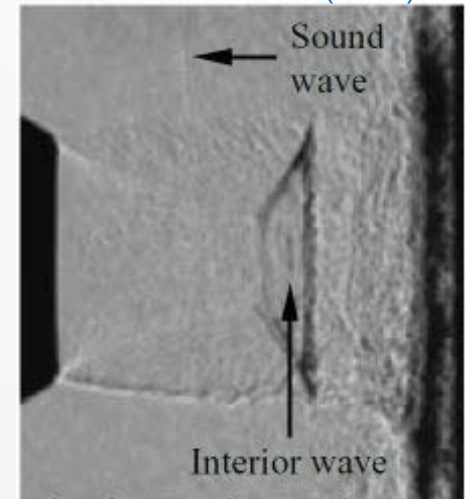
Supersonic jet impingement is an important problem for rocket launch and vertical take off and landing aircraft

- Complex instabilities when jet impinges on plate
- Tone generation for free jets is well documented  
(Tam (1990), Panda (1999), ...)
- Various studies on shock-wave oscillations  
(Henderson et al. (1993,2002,2005), Nakatogawa et al. (1971), Ginzburg et al. (1970), ...)
- Tone generation for certain nozzle pressure ratios and plate to nozzle distances  
(Krothapalli et al. (1999), Henderson et al. (2005), ...)
- Instability depends on plate location in the shock cell structure of corresponding free jet and standing-off shock  
(Henderson et al. (2005))
- Feedback model: Downstream convected large scale coherent flow structures and upstream propagating pressure waves produce resonance
- Approximate formula for instability frequencies  
(Dauplain et al. (2012), Henderson and Powell (1993), Powell, Ho and Nosseir (1981), etc.)



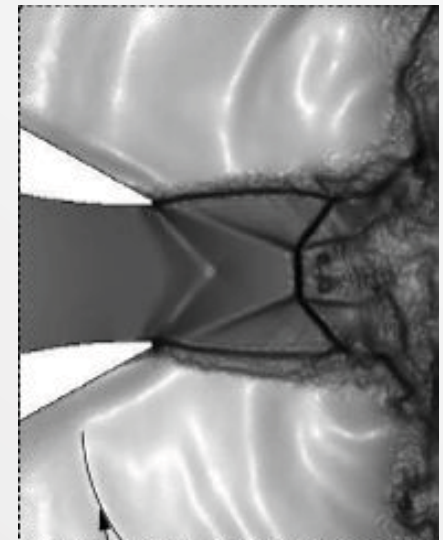
Exp.: Shadow photograph

Henderson et al. (2005)



LES: Density Grad

Dauplain et al. (2012)



$M=2.1$ ,  $L=2 \times D$ ,  $NPR=4$



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## Approach:

# Post-Processing

- **POD** results in a decomposition of the flow field into a set of basis functions that capture most of the flow energy as defined by a user-defined norm with the least number of modes\*

$$\vec{q}(\vec{x}, t) \approx \sum_{n=0}^I a^{(n)}(t) \vec{\chi}^{(n)}(\vec{x})$$

\*Rowley(2001), Freund and Colonius (2002)

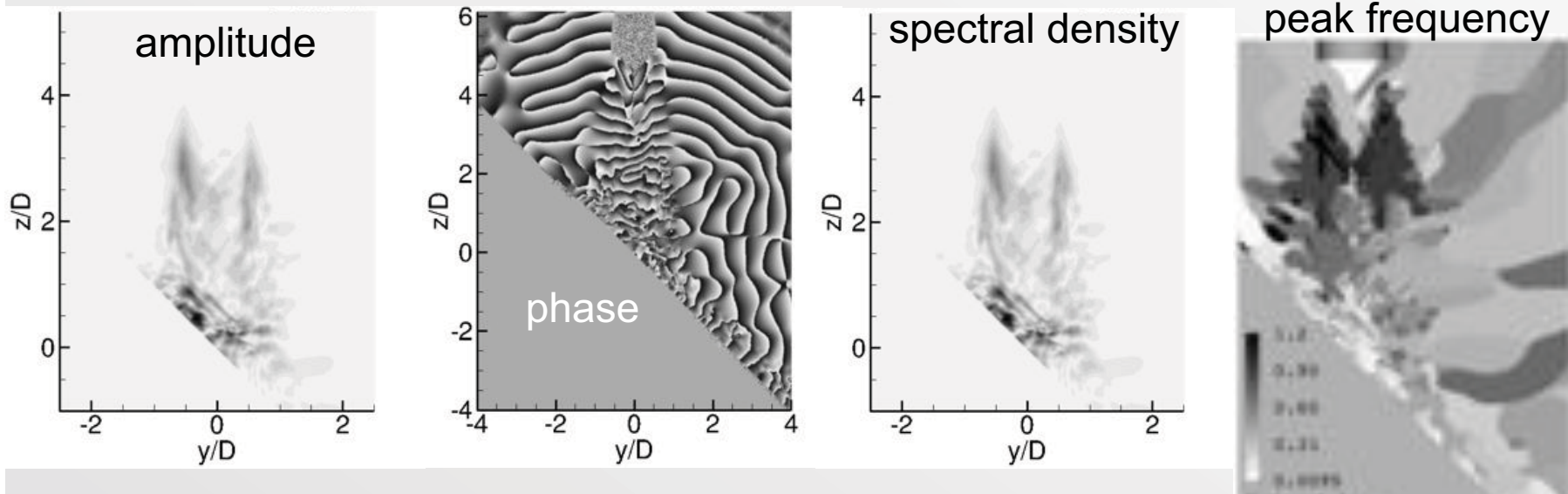
\*\*Lumley(1967), Sirovich (1987),  
Chatterje (2004)

\*\*\*Nonomura et al (2011)

- Used snapshot method\*\* in temporal domain
- Vector norm (energy) with  
 $q_k = [p, u, v, w, T^{0.5}]$  and  $\omega_k = [1, 0, 0, 0, 0]$

$$|\vec{q}|^2 = \int_V \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_q} \omega_k q_k q_k \right) d\vec{x}$$

- **DFT** used to analyze time-spectral characteristics of pressure field



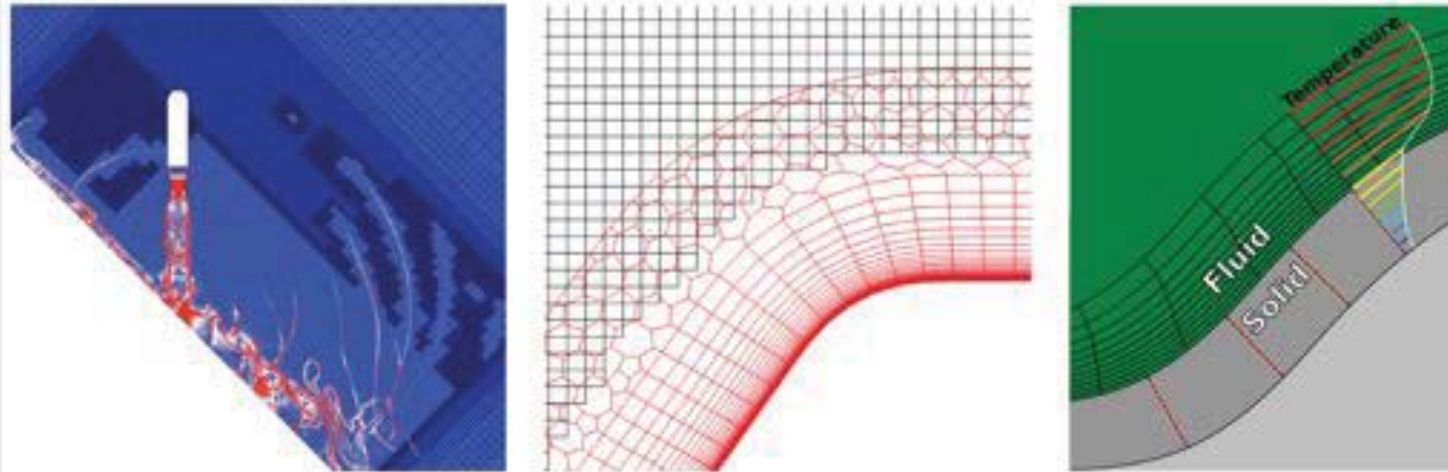
- **HOSA** results shown in paper (phase speed and coherence length)



Approach:

# LAVA Solver

Launch Ascent and Vehicle Aerodynamics



- Developed by authors at NASA Ames Research Center.
- Supports Cartesian AMR, block structured-curvilinear overset, and unstructured arbitrary polyhedral cells.
- Sharp interface immersed-boundary representation of geometry.
- Cell centered finite-volume and finite-difference formulation.
- Explicit and implicit time-integration.
- Multi-species capability with user-specified equations of state.
- Automatic volume gridding requiring only a surface triangulation.





# Investigate Level of Fidelity for Pressure Environment Simulations

- Slowly increase complexity of CFD model to examine assumptions:
  - Inviscid
  - Viscous (ILES, SA-DES), slip wall BCs\*
  - Viscous (ILES, SA-DES), no-slip wall BCs
- What can these CFD approaches capture?
- Want fast turn-around times while maintaining high degree of accuracy
  - Reduce grid generation time
    - immersed boundary methods essentially eliminate manual grid generation process
  - Reduce run time
    - block structured mesh provides optimal memory layout



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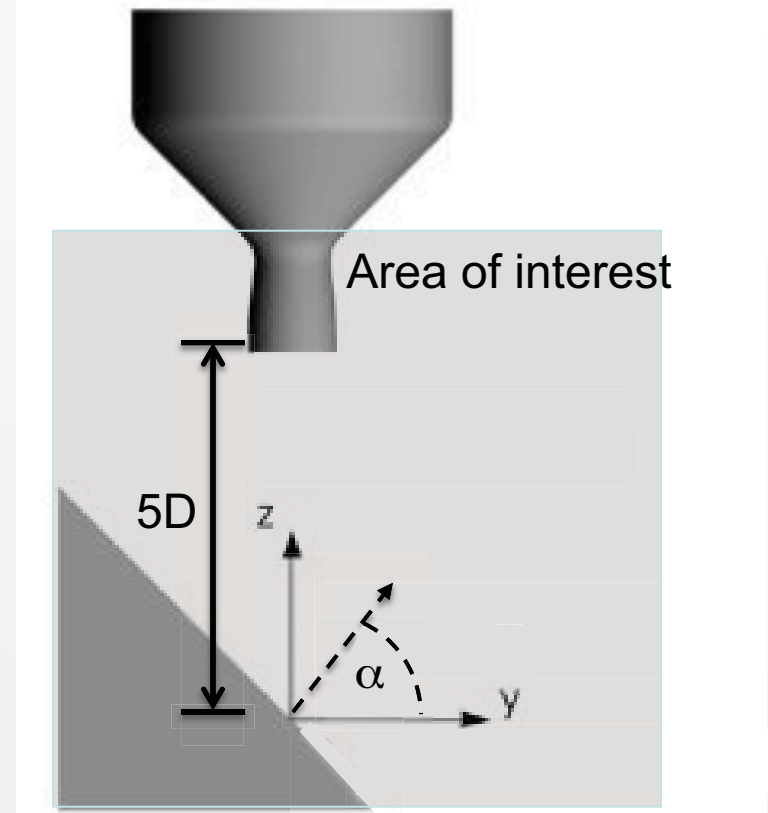
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# Computational Setup



- Collaboration with JAXA\*\*
- Conditions based on experiments by Nakanishi et al. at the UT-Kashiwa hypersonic and high-temperature wind tunnel\*
- $M=1.8$ , air at  $T=300\text{K}$  (cold)
- $Re=V_e D/\nu=1.6 \times 10^6$
- 200-400 million grid points
- Nozzle-to-plate distance  $5D$
- Impingement angle  $\alpha$



Flow conditions at nozzle exit and percent differences with perfectly expanded jet:

	Mach number	pressure, $p_{\text{ref}}$ [Pa]	exit velocity, $V_e$ [m/s]
exit conditions	1.8045	100,794	488.14
difference	~0.25%	~0.52%	~0.24%

\*Nakanishi et al., "Acoustic characteristics of correctly-expanded supersonic jet impinging on an inclined at plate", AJCPP2012-129

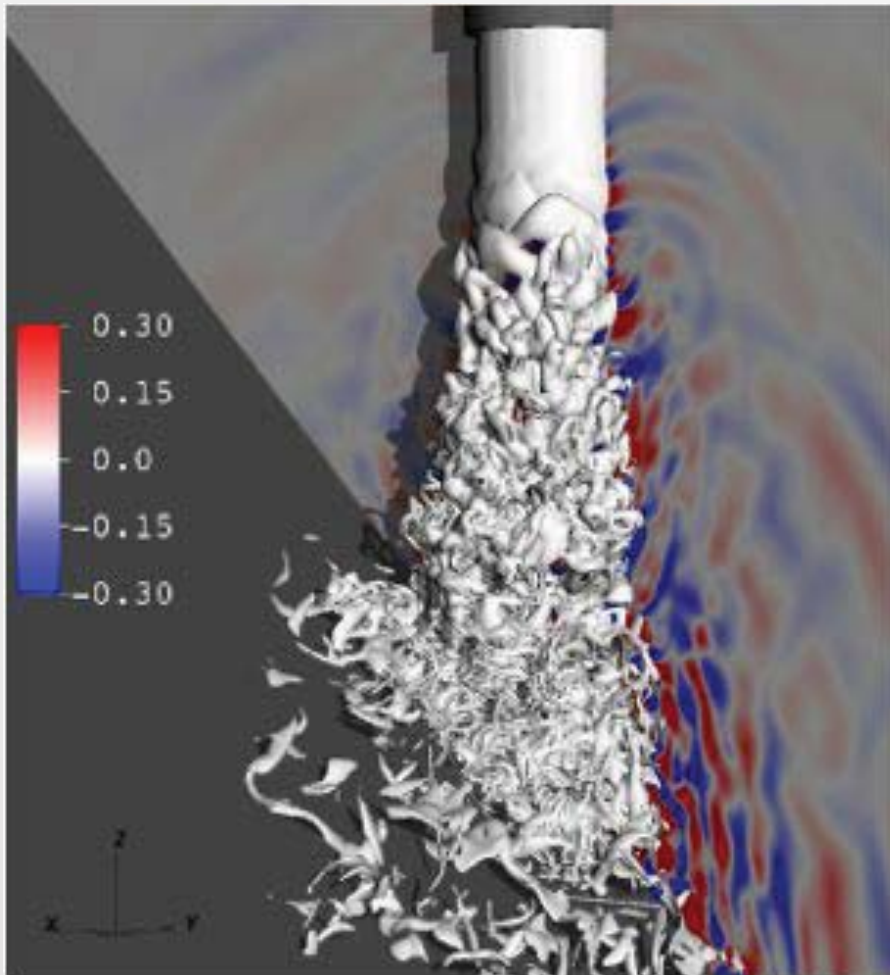
\*\*Tsutsumi et al. 2012, \*\*Nonmura et al. 2010 & 2011

Jet Impingement Problem:

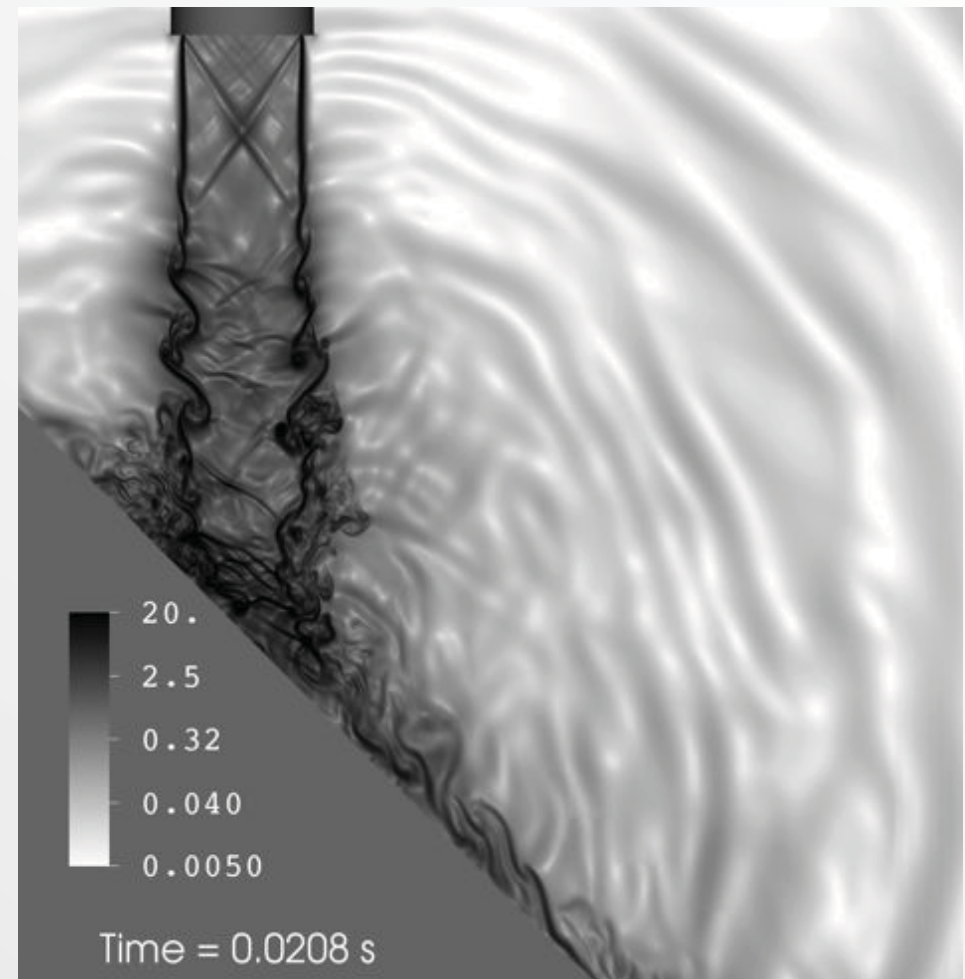
# Unsteady Flow Field



dilatation &  $|\omega|D/V_e \approx 8.3$

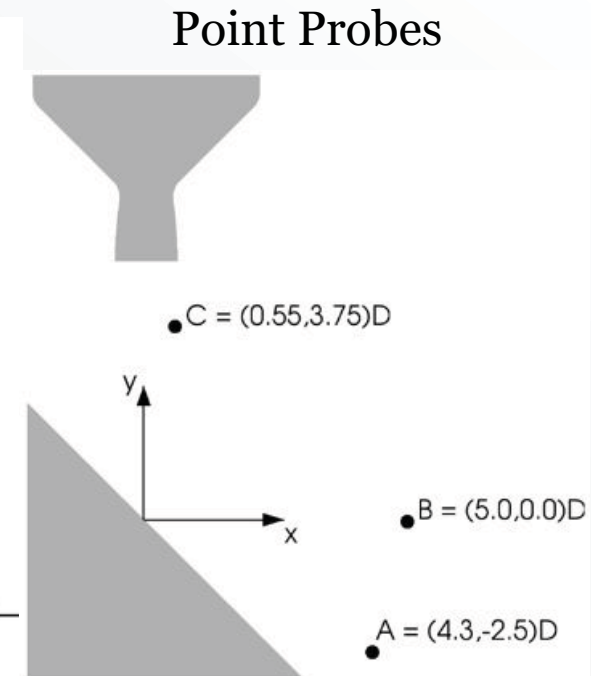
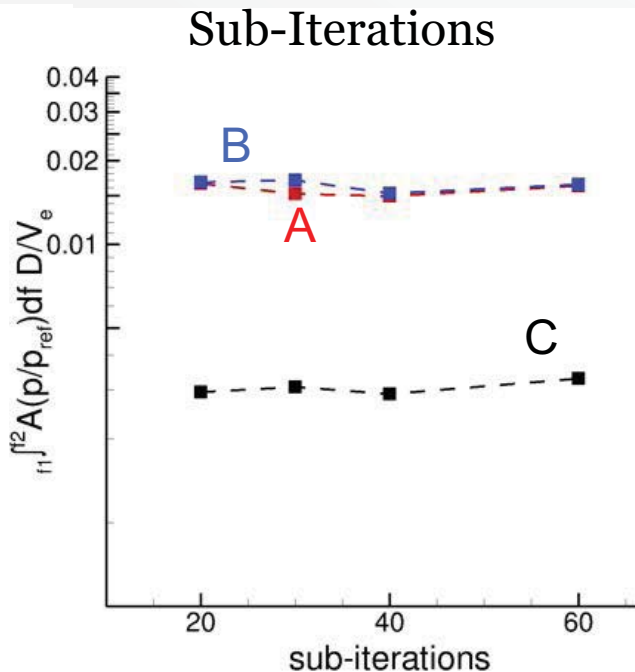
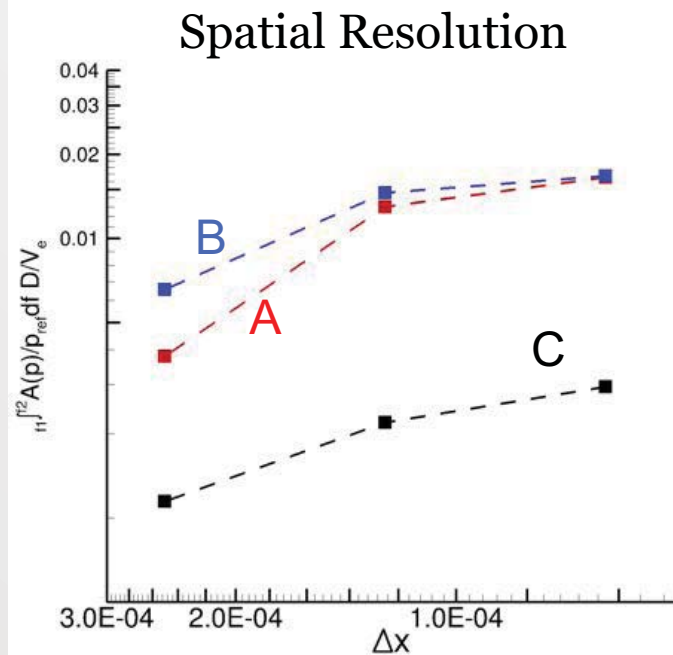


pseudo-Schlieren





# Grid Convergence



- Error convergence study w.r.t. spatial discretization, sub-iterations, time-step\*
- Thorough verification study of LAVA in Moini-Yekta et al.\*\*,\*\*
- Grid resolution sufficient until approximately  $St=3-4$
- Much finer mesh than Dauplain et al.

\*Housman et al. "Space-Time Convergence Analysis of a Dual-Time Stepping Method for Simulating Ignition Overpressure Waves" ICCFD6, 2010

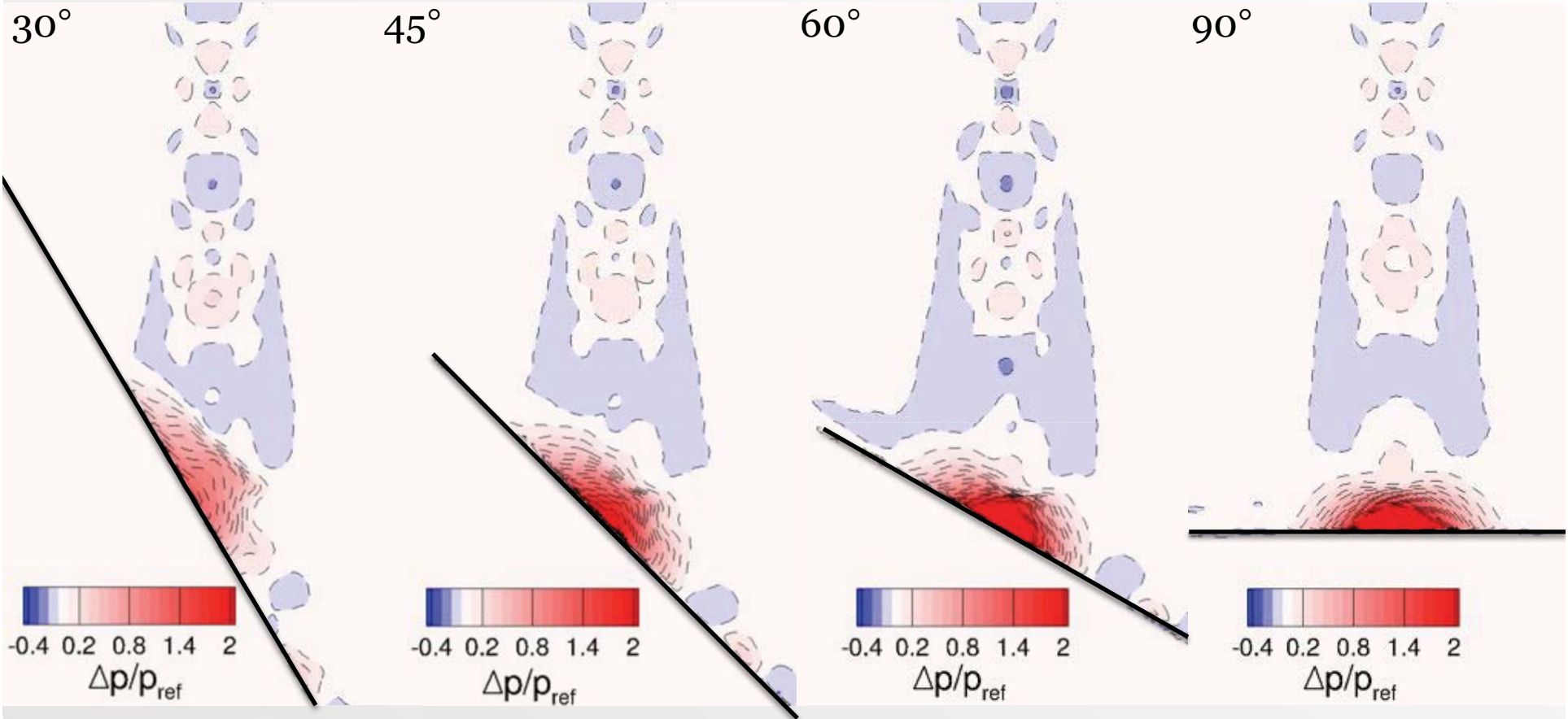
\*\*Moini-Yekta et al. "Verification and Validation Studies for the LAVA CFD Solver", AIAA Paper, San Diego, June 23-27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

\*\*\*Kiris et al. (2014)

# Mean Flow



Mean-Pressure Contours:



- Flow is mildly over-expanded
- Shock structure on the impingement surface
- Impingement pressure increases with angle

## Jet Impingement Problem:

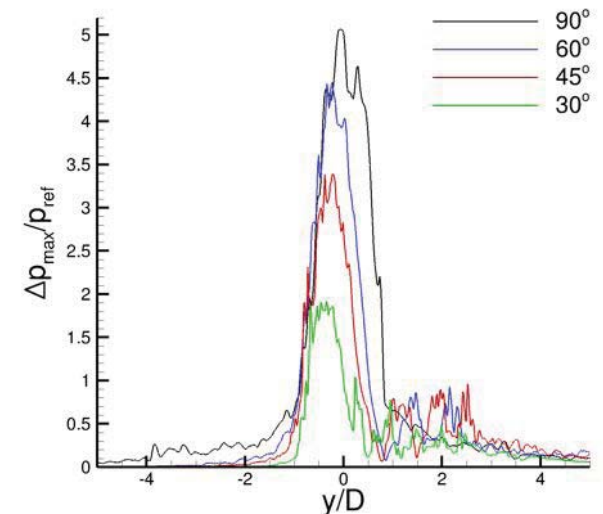
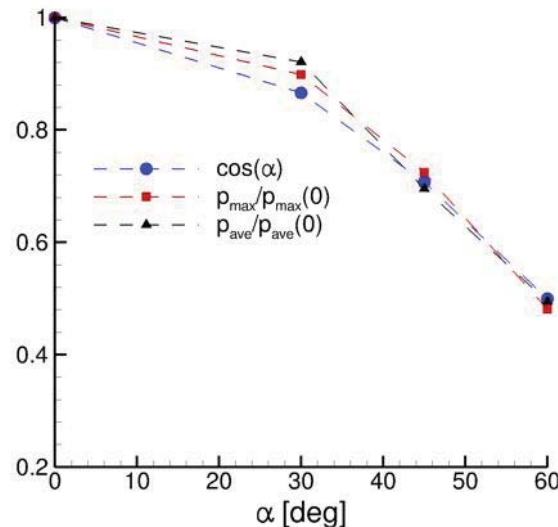
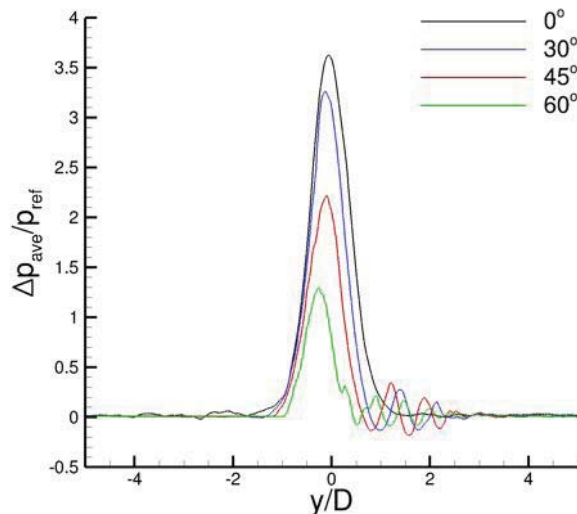
# Mean Flow:

## Pressure Distribution in x=0 cutting plane

time-averaged

approximated

maximum



$$p_{max}/p_{ref} = \max\left\{\frac{p(\vec{x},t)-p_{ref}}{p_{ref}}; 146 < \frac{U_{ref}t}{D} < 365\right\}$$

- Maximum in time-averaged pressure distribution analytically estimated ( $\approx 3\%$  error) (see for example Allgood for application to flame deflector)
- CFD needed to predict spatial pressure distribution and unsteadiness
- Maximum surface pressure is approximately 40-50% higher than time-averaged maximum surface pressure

Allgood, D. and Ahuja, V., "Computational Plume Modeling of Conceptual ARES Vehicle Stage Tests", AIAA Paper 2012  
Launcher/Transport Branch, "Development of Design Criteria for Saturn V Flame Deector", NASA-TM, 1965

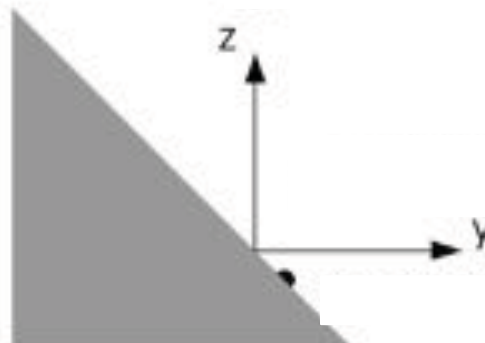
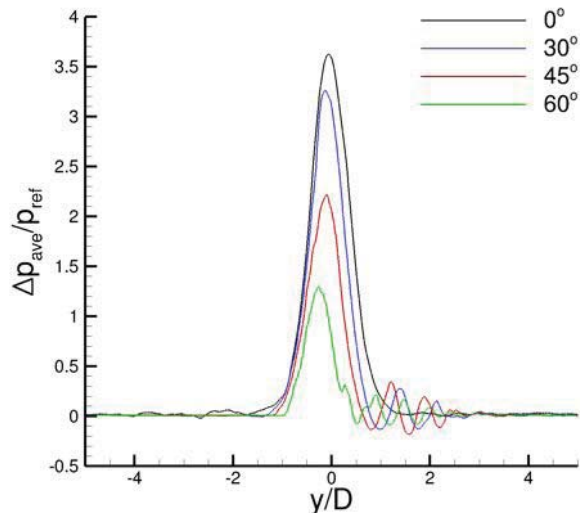


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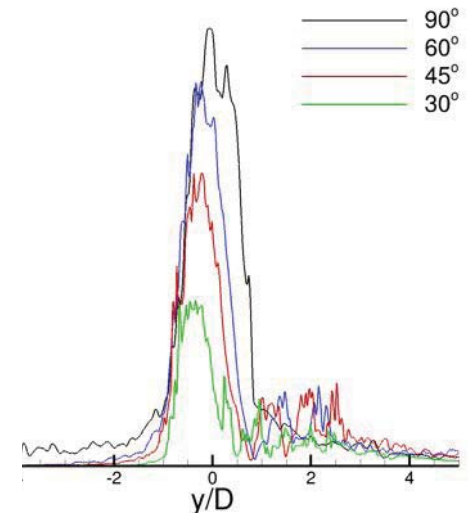
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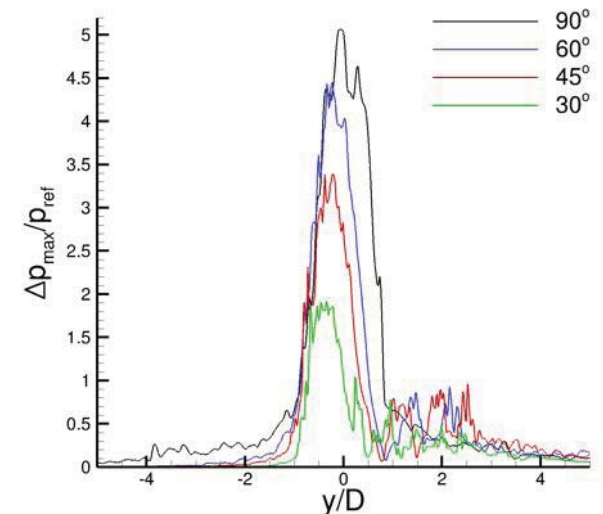
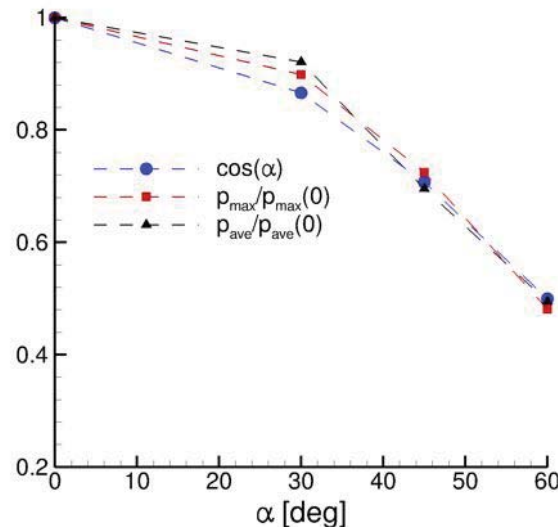
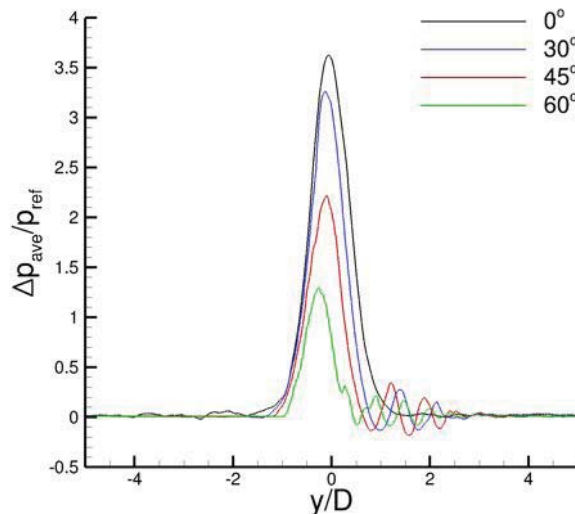
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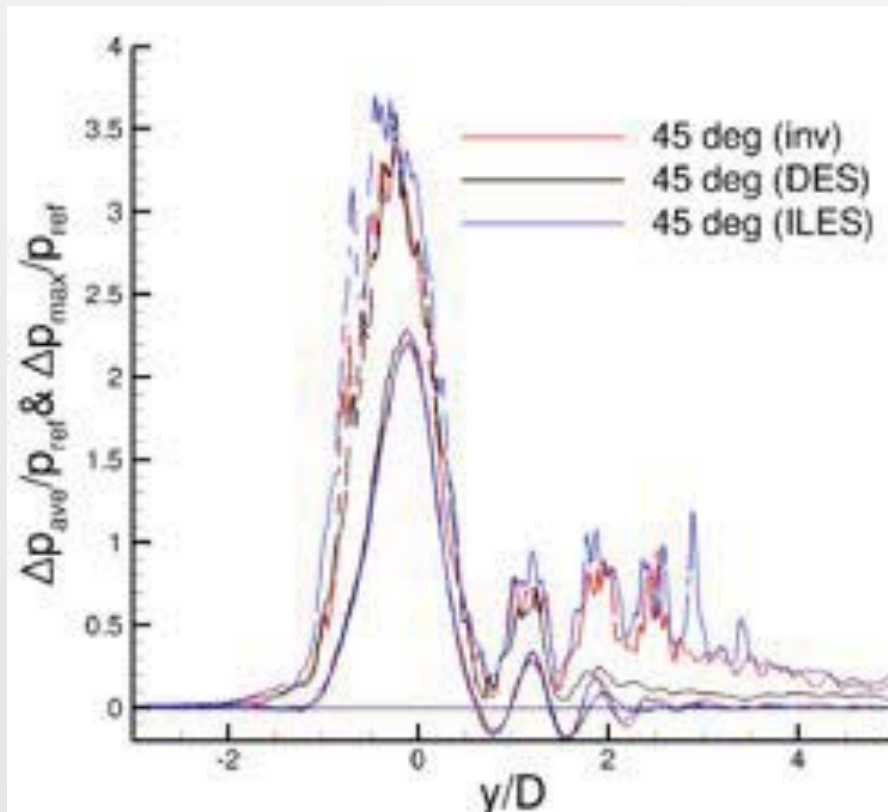
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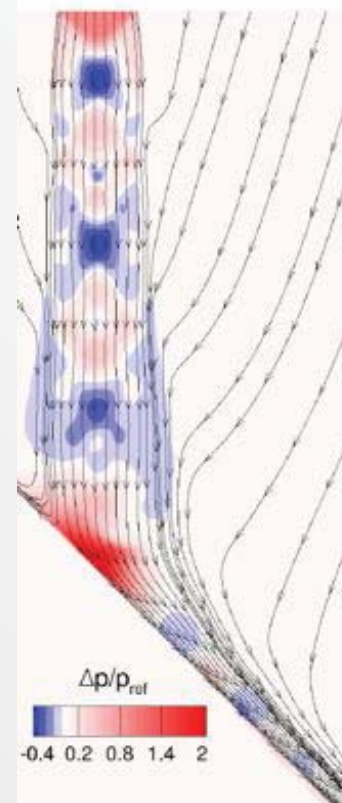
# Inviscid vs. Viscous



Max. surface pressure



Streamlines and mean pressure



pressure rms



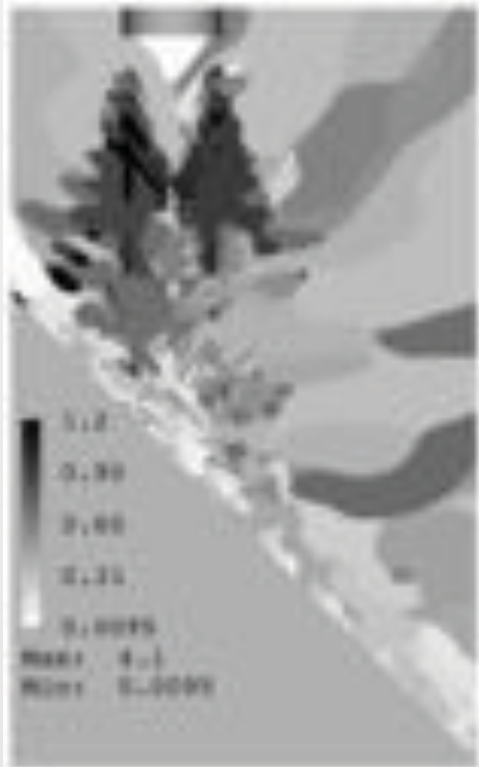
ILES

- DES near the wall dampens pressure oscillations
- Very close agreement between viscous and inviscid results

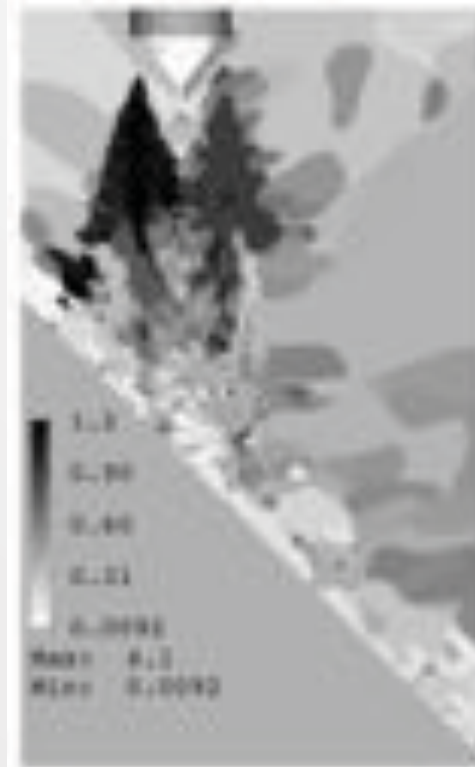
# Peak Frequencies



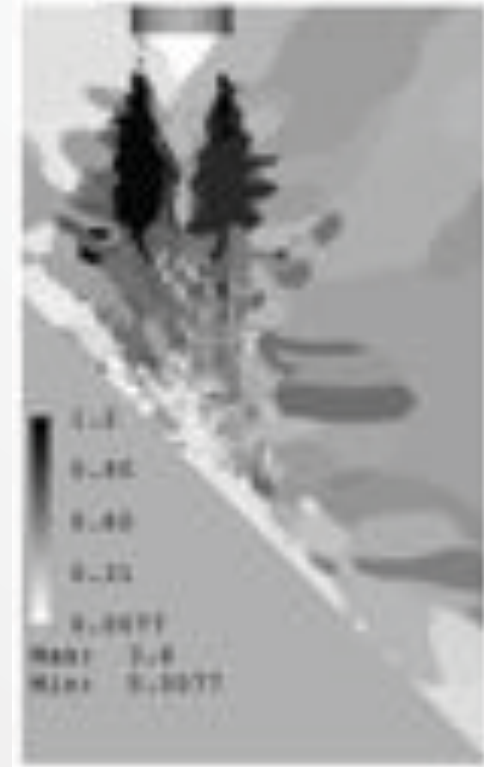
Inviscid



ILES



DES

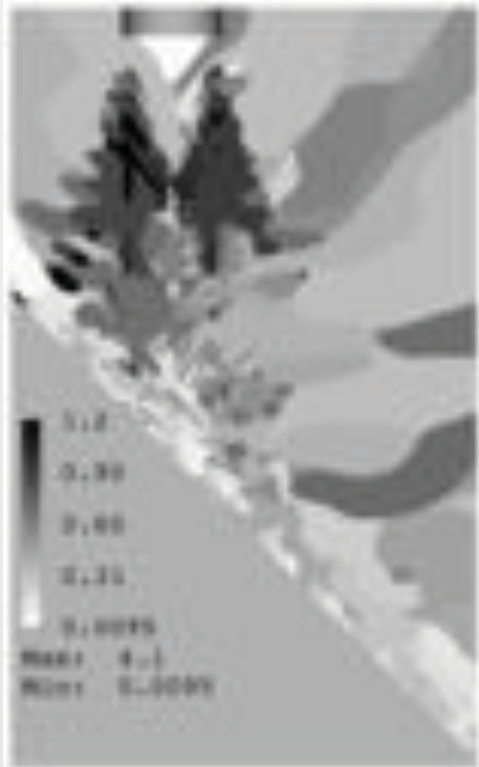


- General features of peak frequency distributions are very similar
- Several reasons for asymmetry in distribution:  
Noisy spectra, statistically not yet converged, (m=3)-mode, higher excitation from up-slope reflected waves

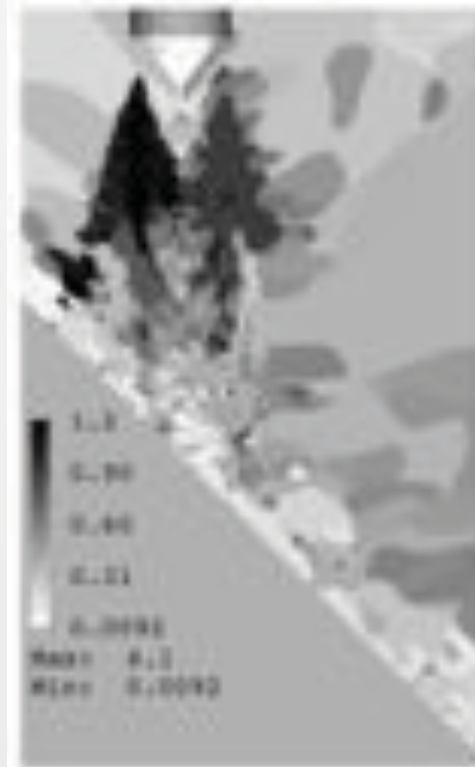
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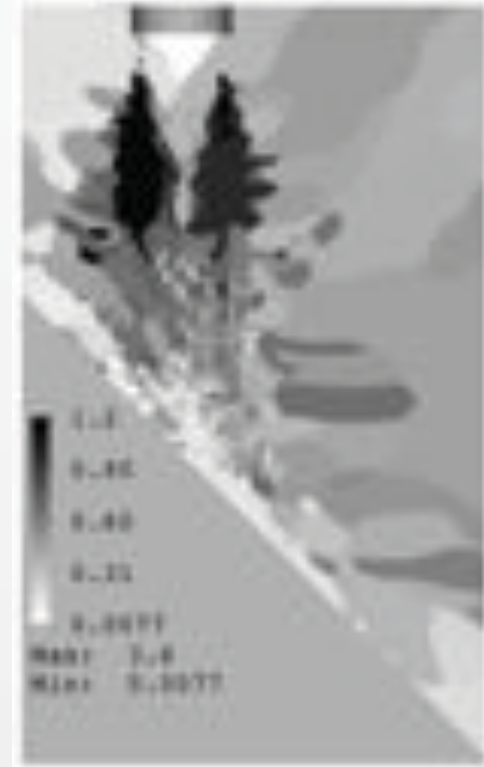
Inviscid



ILES



DES



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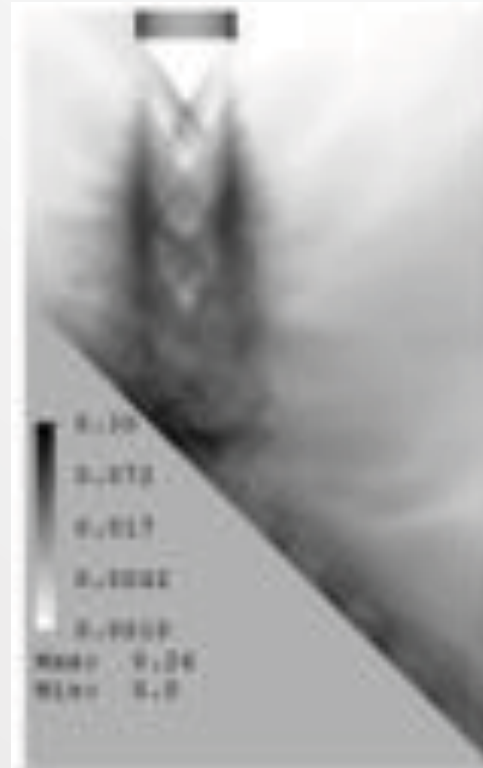
# Peak Amplitudes



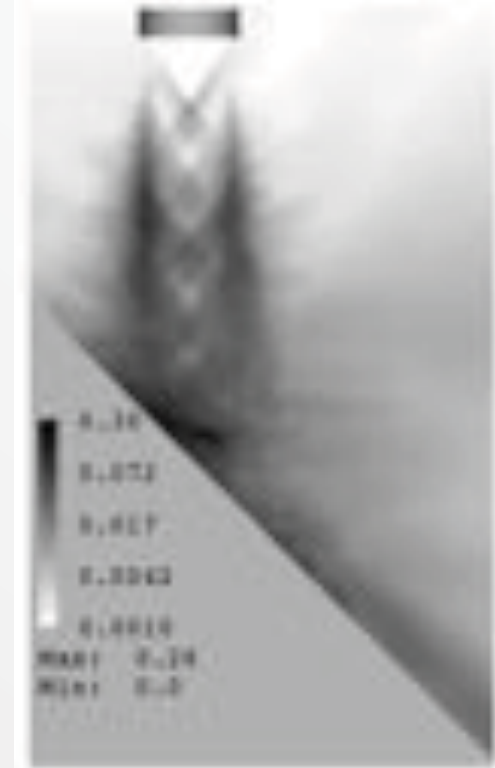
Inviscid



ILES



DES



- All three CFD models display similar distributions
- Reduced amplitudes for DES downstream of the impingement location

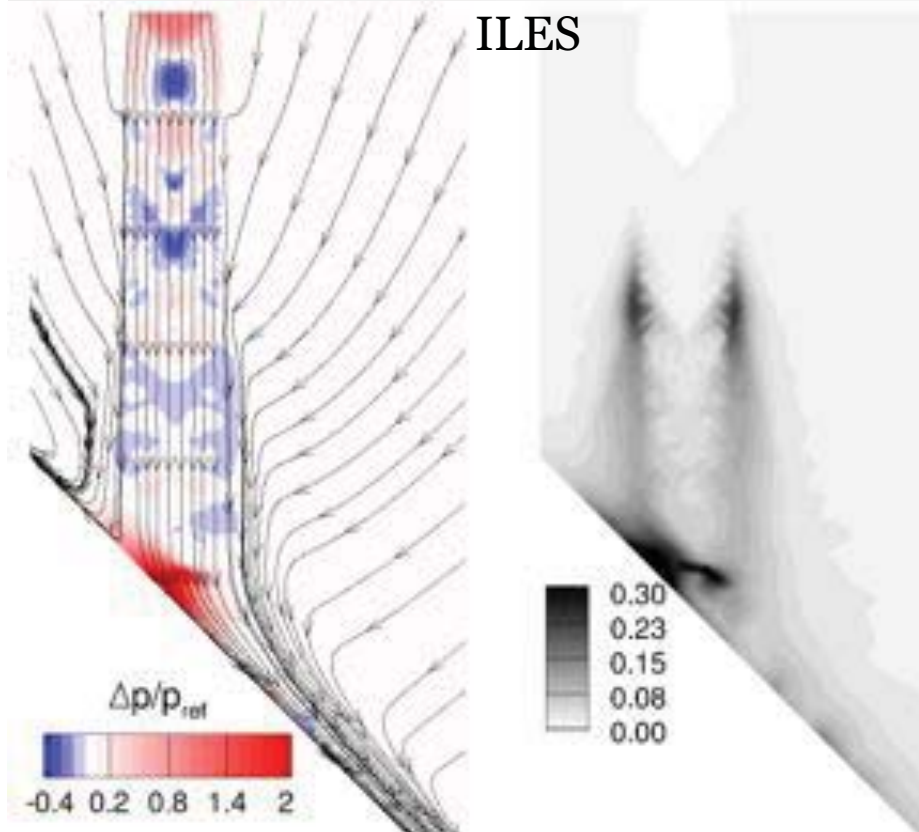
# No-slip Wall BCs



Streamlines  
and mean pressure

pressure rms

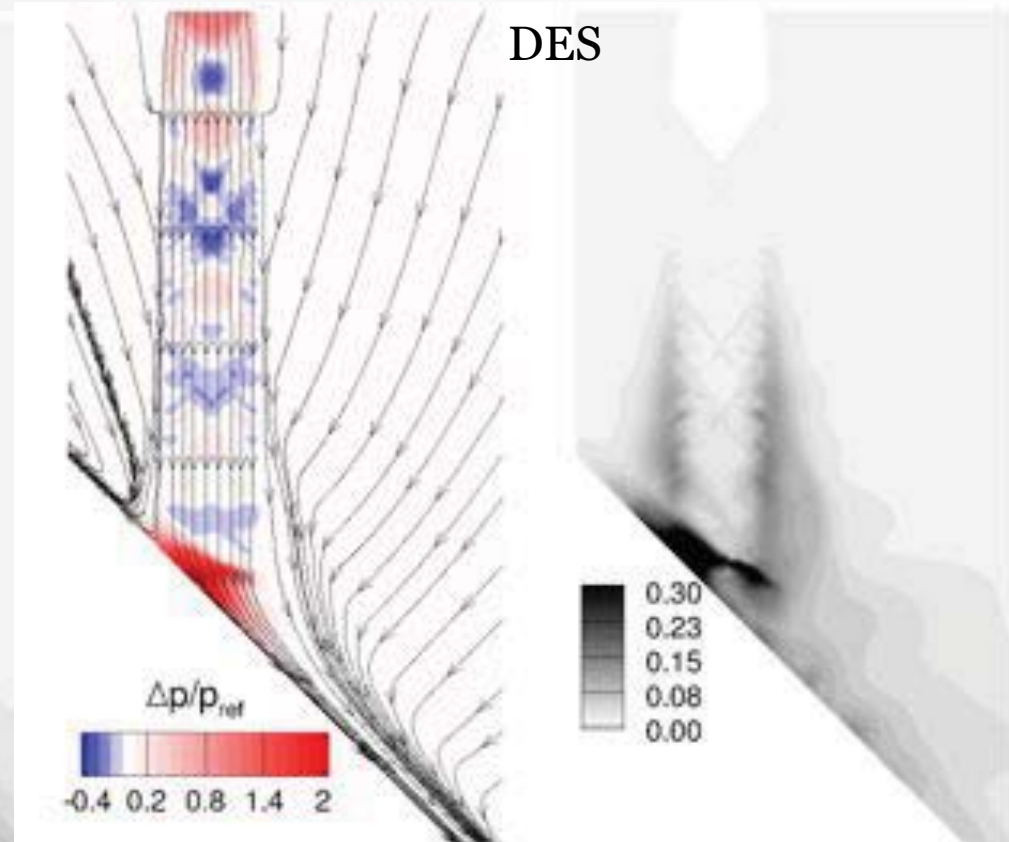
ILES



Streamlines  
and mean pressure

pressure rms

DES

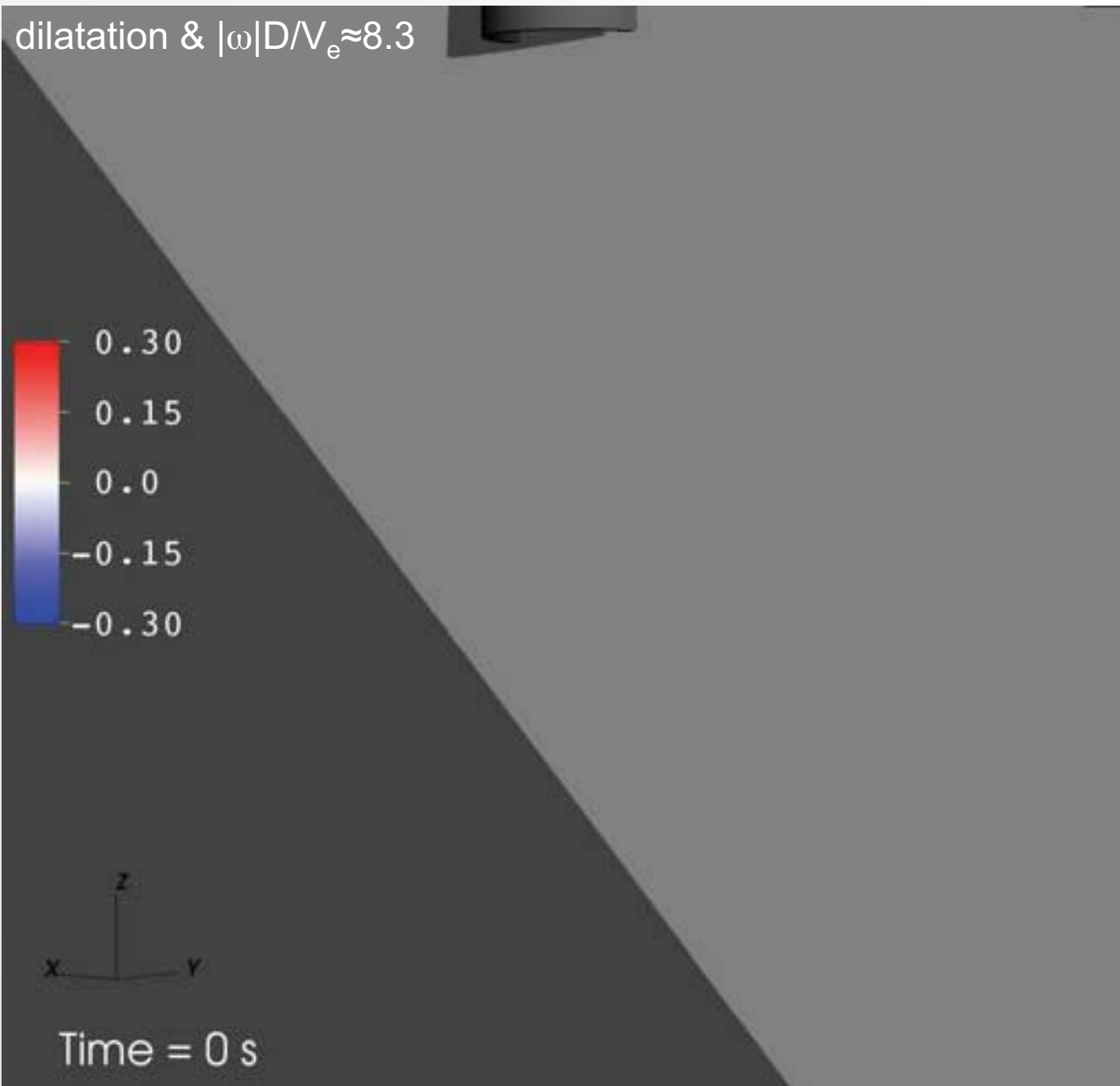


Note: curvilinear overset grid system

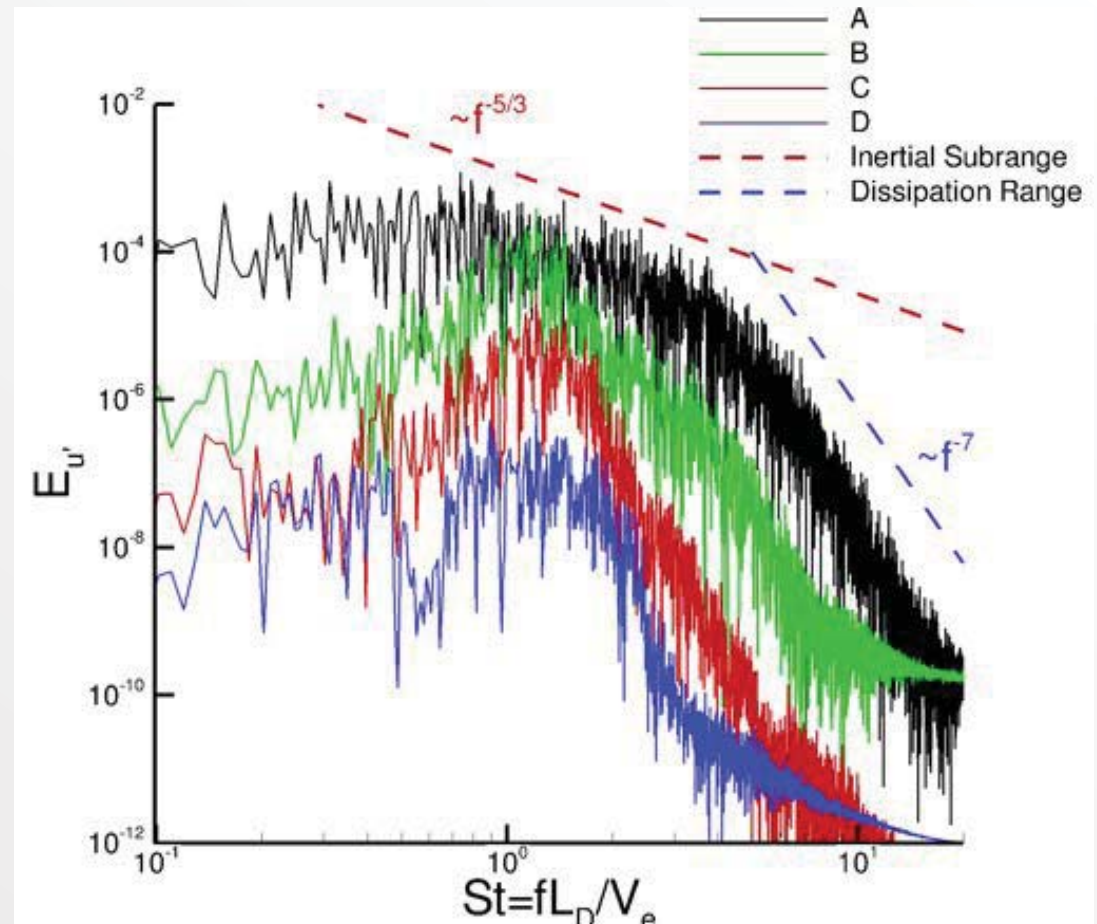
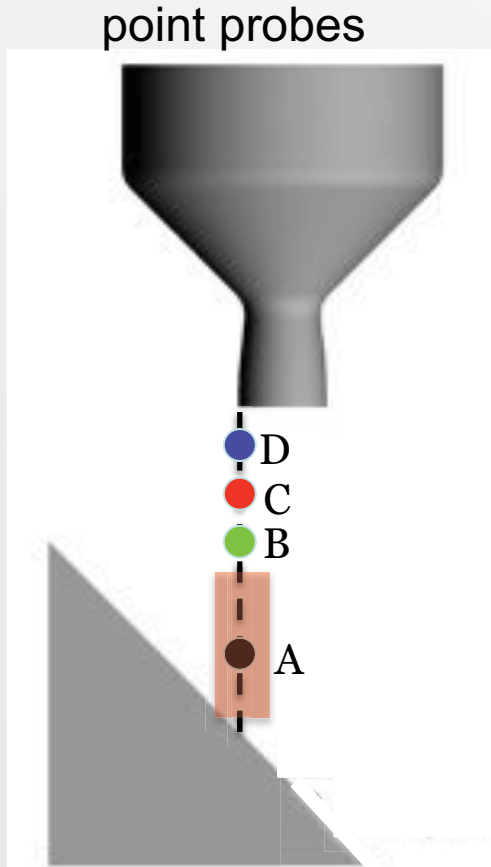
- No separation on impingement plane
- Streamlines and pressure rms values are very similar
- Slightly more diffused solution due to coarser grid and metric terms
- Eddy viscosity from DES model seems to affect unsteadiness in shear layer

## Jet Impingement Problem:

dilatation &  $|\omega|D/V_e \approx 8.3$



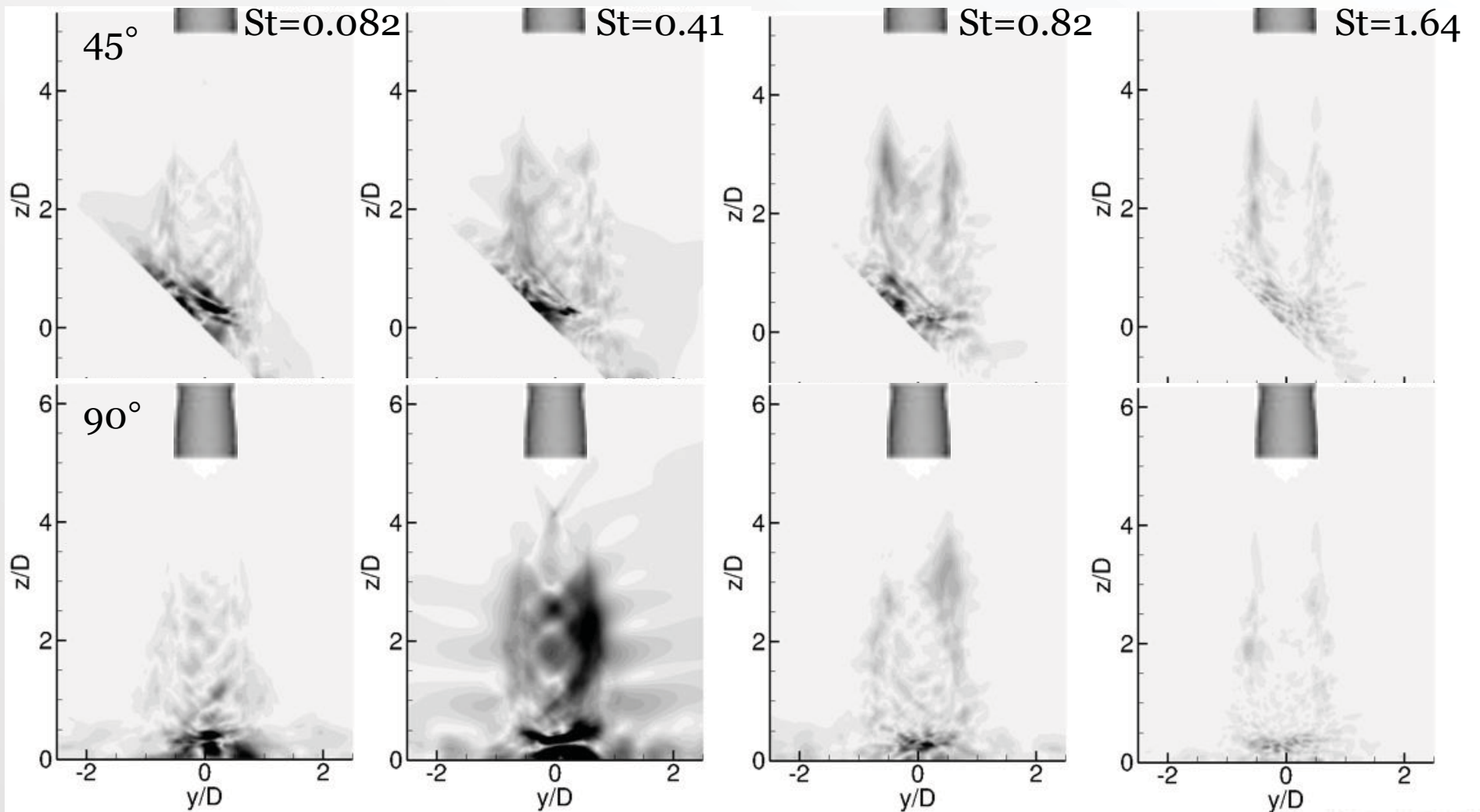
# Velocity Power Spectra (ILES)



- Energy spectrum fills up from D to A (laminar-turbulent transition process)
- Points within red-shaded region show similar spectra
- Well resolved until approximately  $St=3-4$
- Frequencies correspond well to results in literature (Michalke (1984))  
 $\omega\Theta_C/U_0 \approx 0.1-0.2$  for  $m=0$  and  $m=1$  (azimuthal modes)

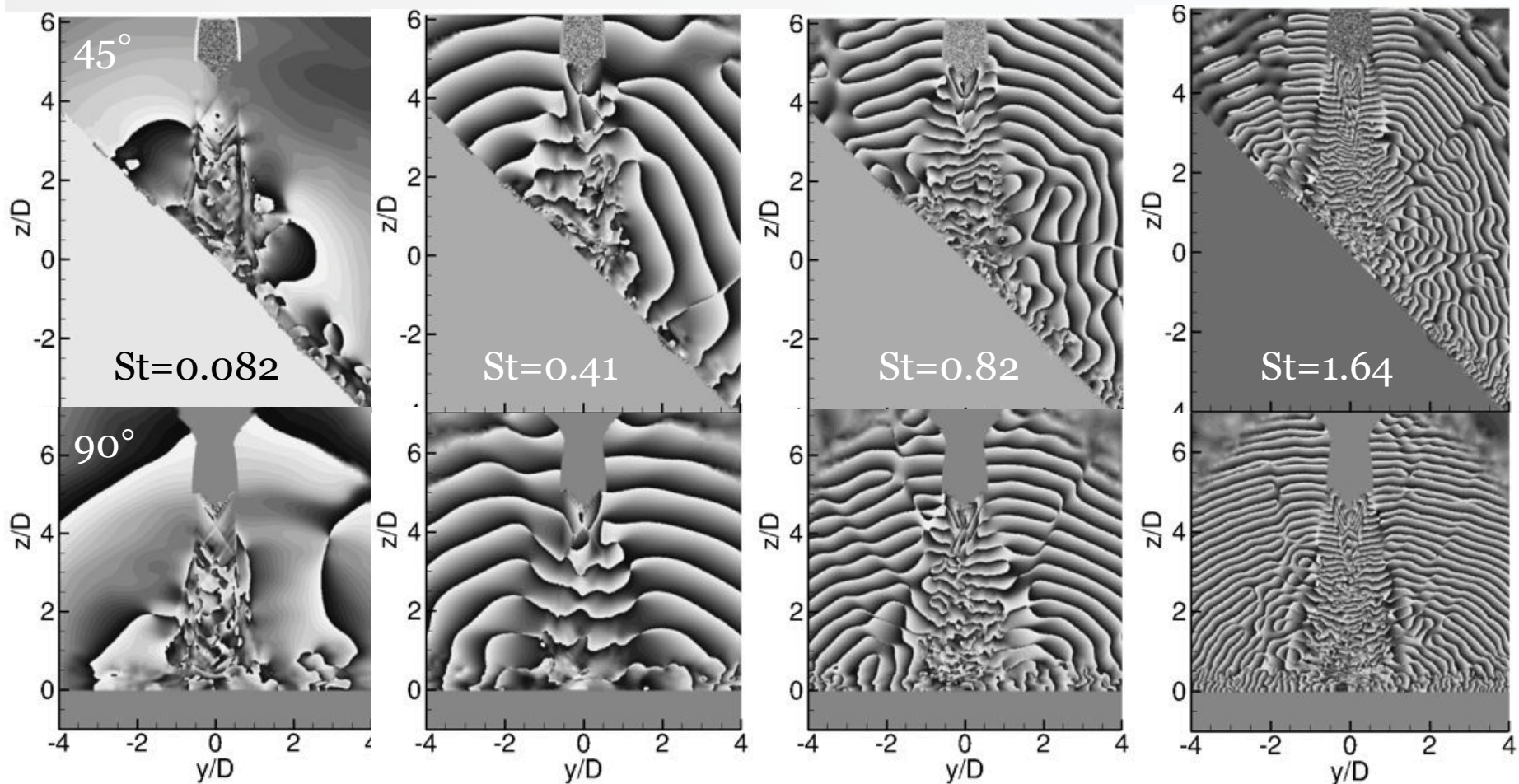


# Spectral Analysis: Amplitude



- Large amplitudes at impingement location -  $f_{\text{low}}$ 
  - Broad spectrum in shear layer -  $f_{\text{high}}$

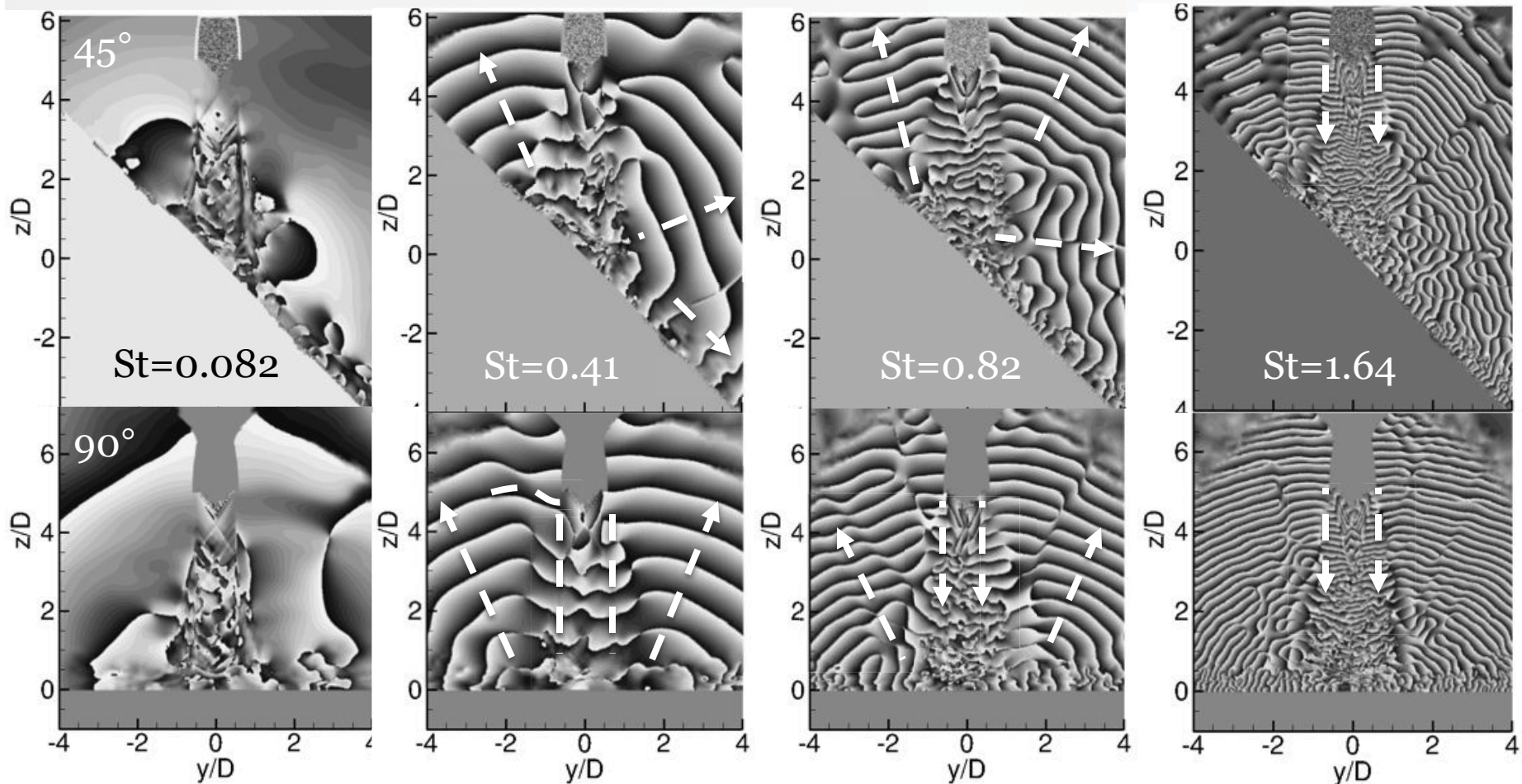
# Spectral Analysis: Phase



- Provides overview of directionality of wave propagation
  - For acoustic waves as well as instability waves
- Shear layer waves close to nozzle lip appear to be unaffected by impingement angle for  $St=1.64$ , stronger effect for  $St=0.41$



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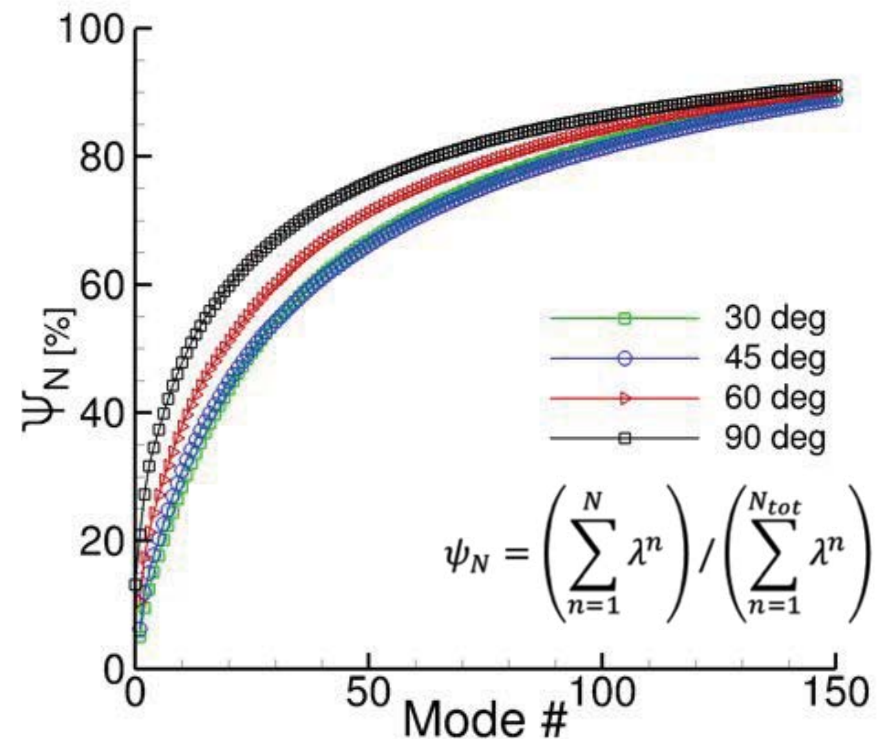
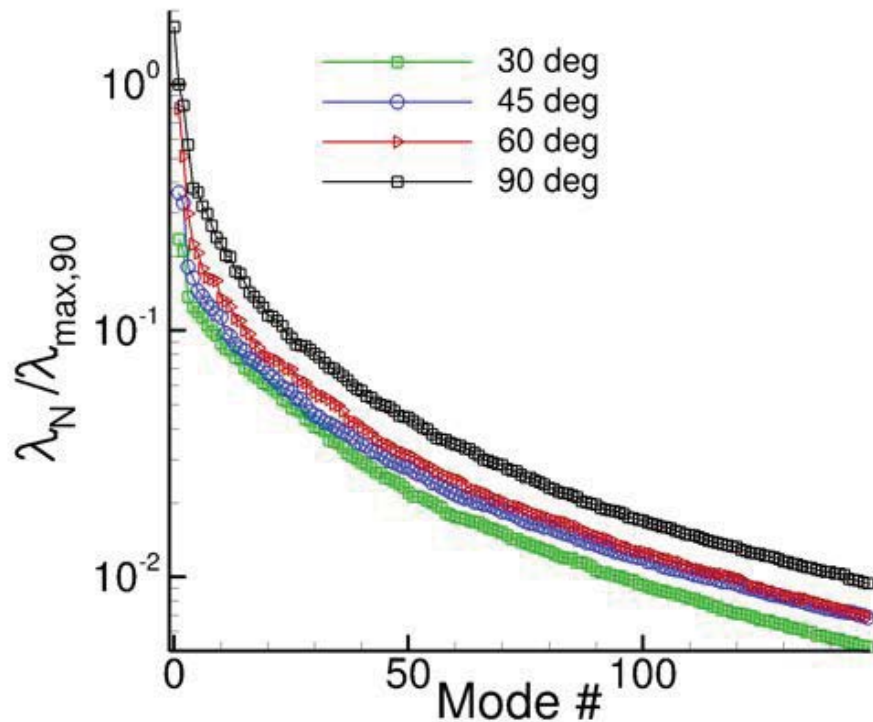
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# Proper Orthogonal Decomposition



eigenvalues

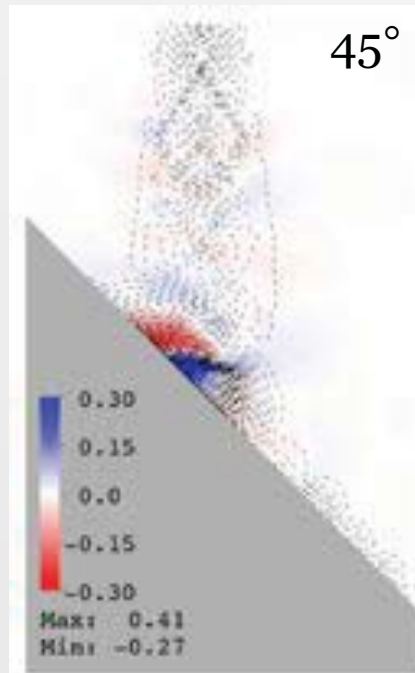
captured energy



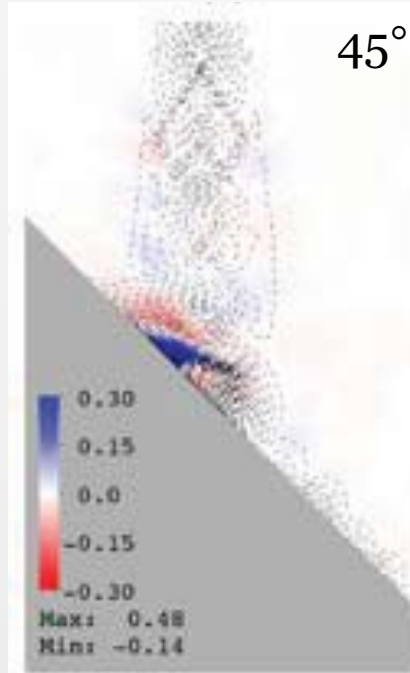
- Stronger coherence with increasing impingement angle
- ~20/50 modes capture 60/80% of energy (p) for 90°



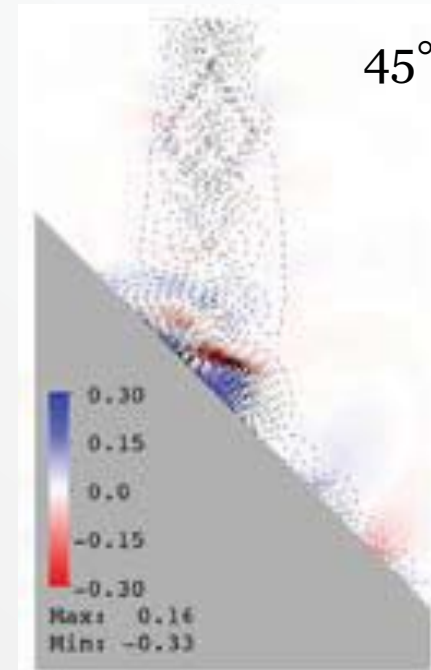
# Jet Impingement Problem: POD modes



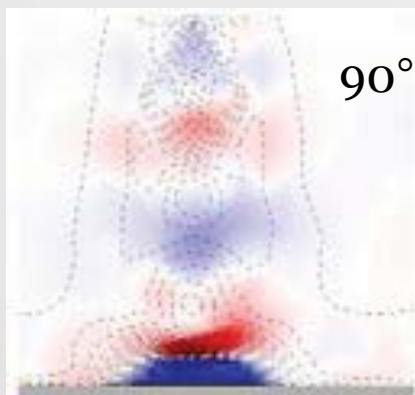
mode 1



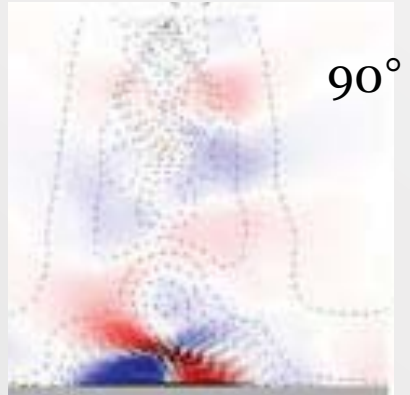
mode 2



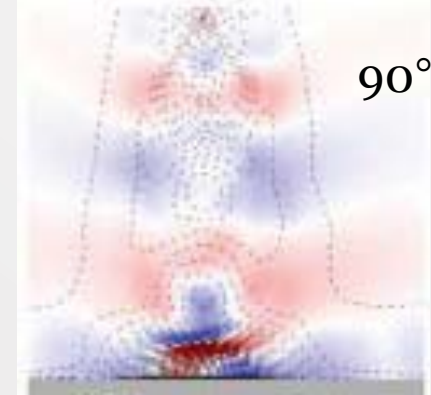
mode 3



mode 1

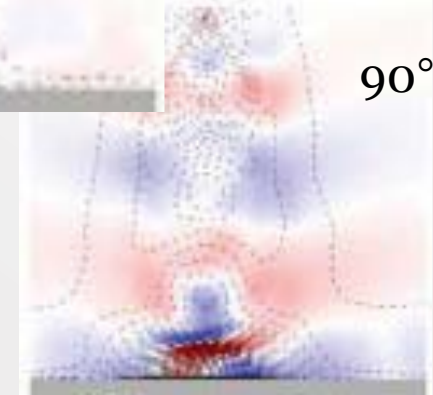
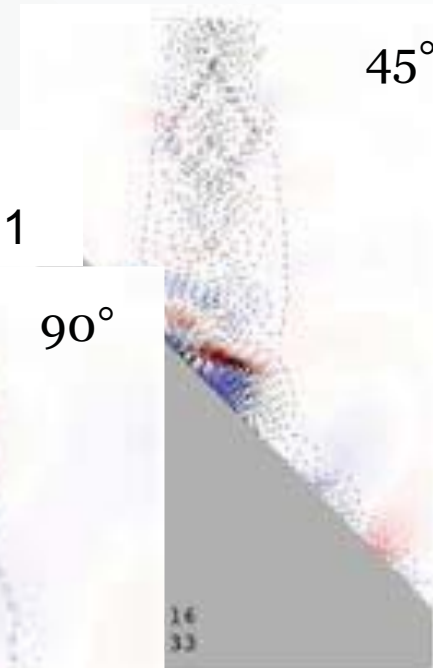
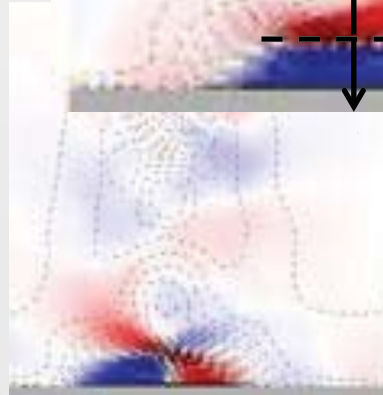
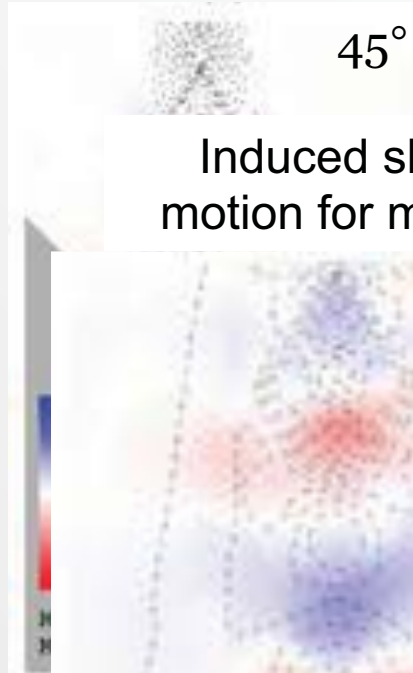
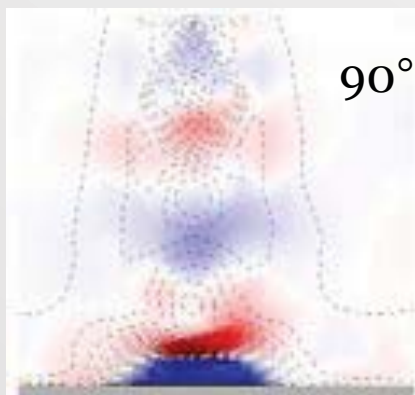
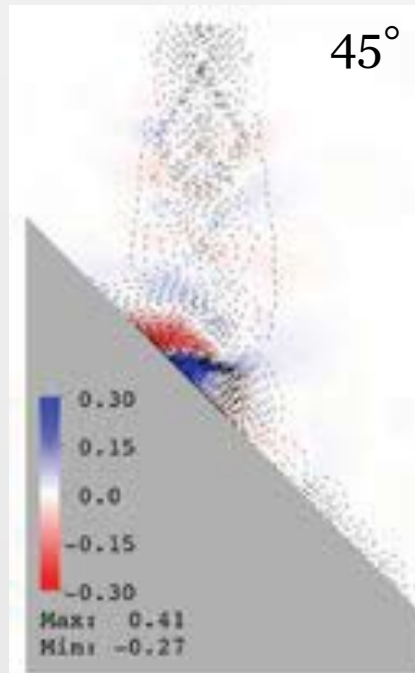


mode 2

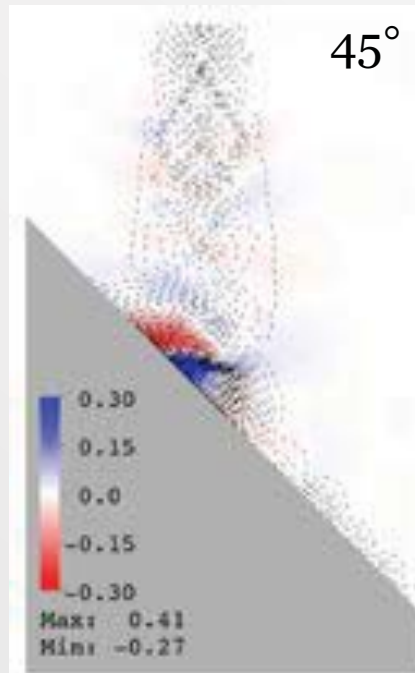


mode 3

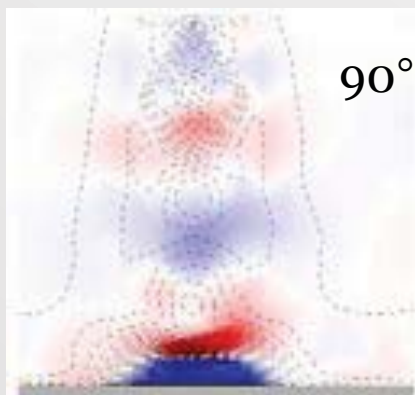
# Jet Impingement Problem: POD modes



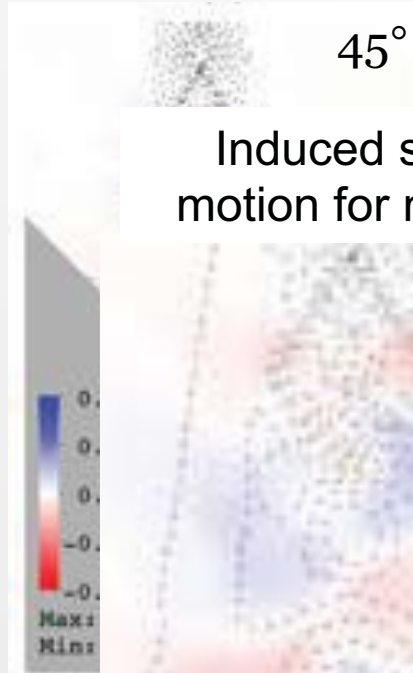
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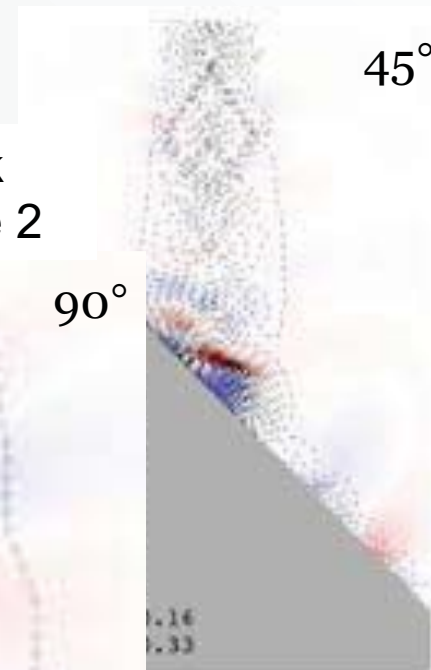
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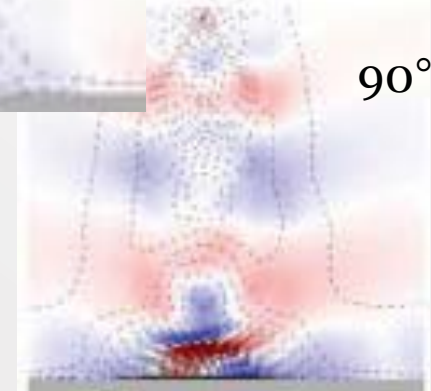
mode 1



mode 2

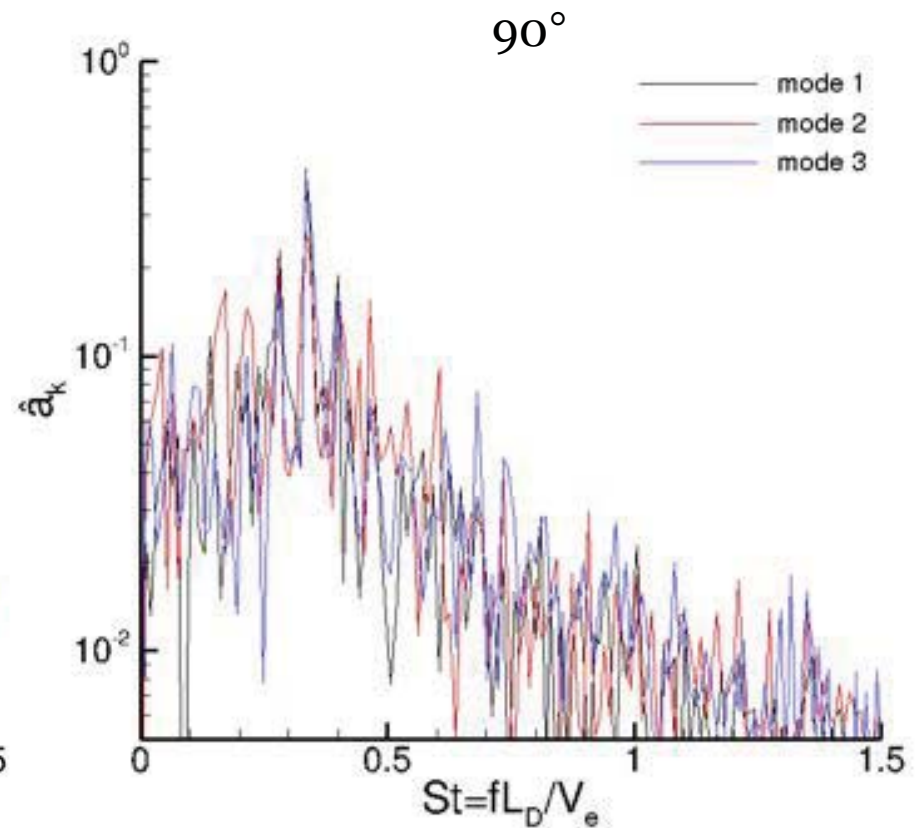
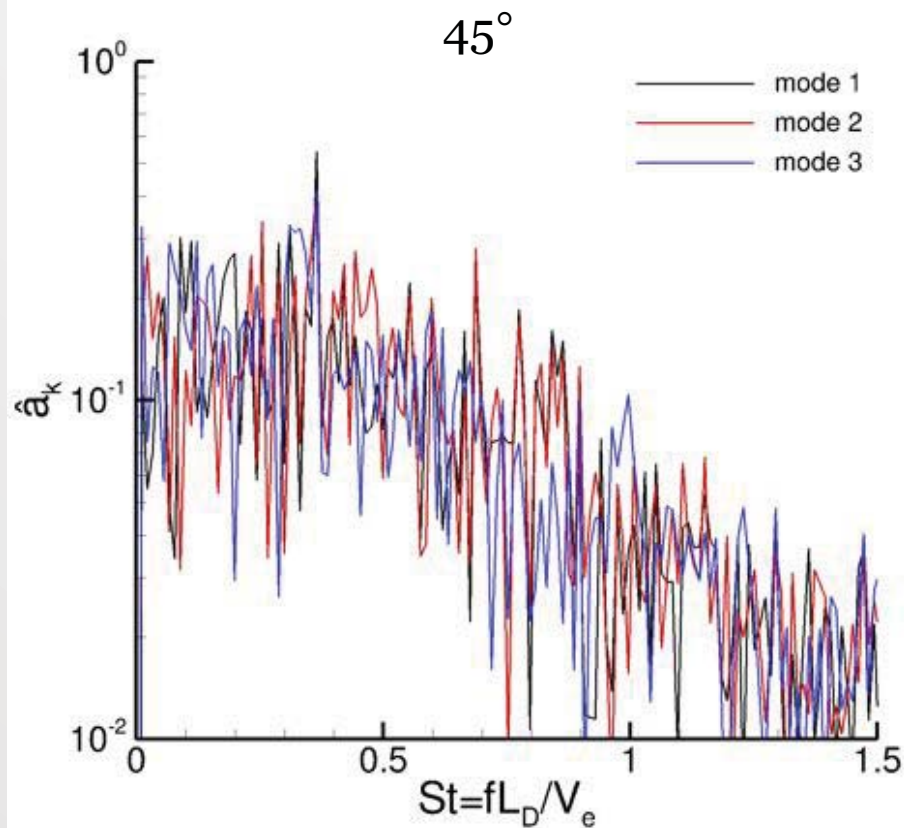


mode 3



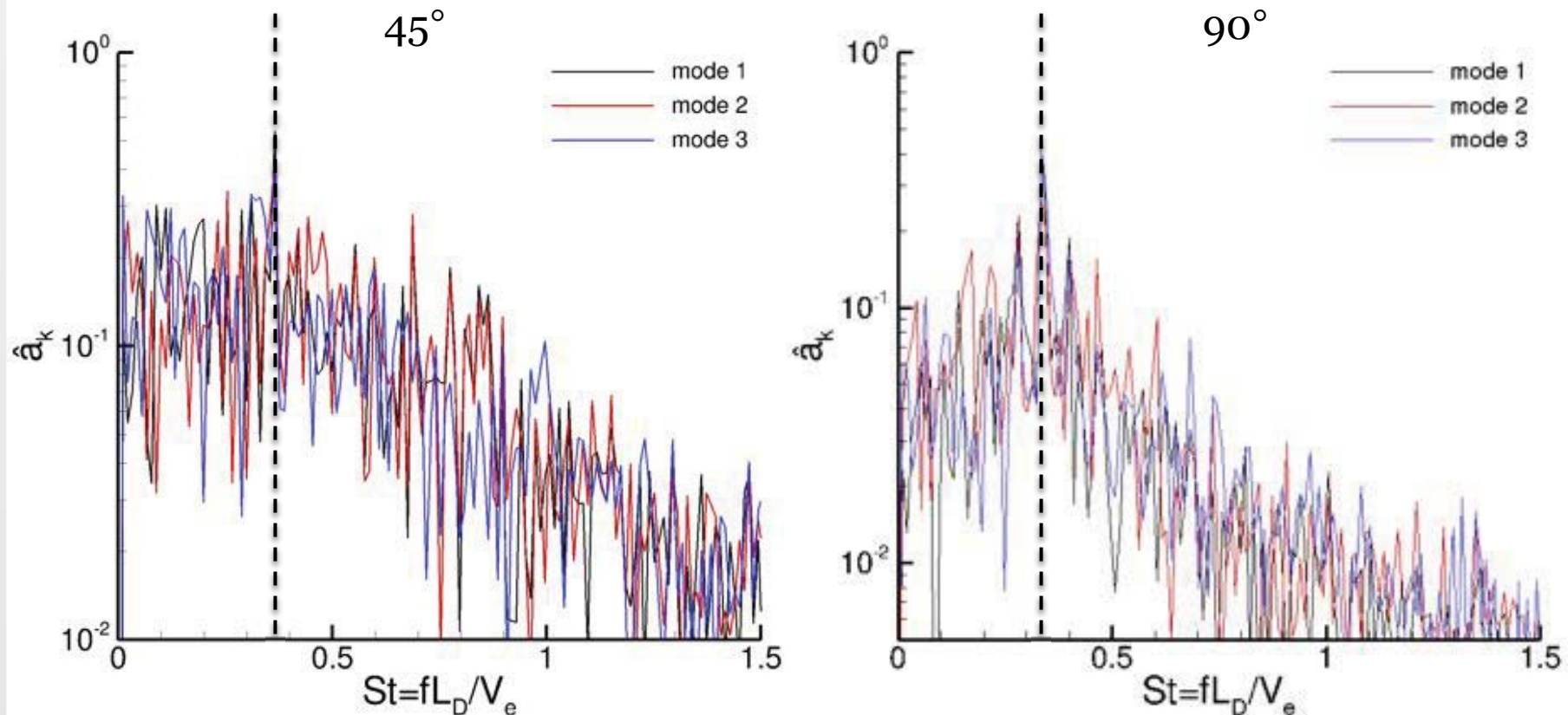
mode 3

# Time Coefficients



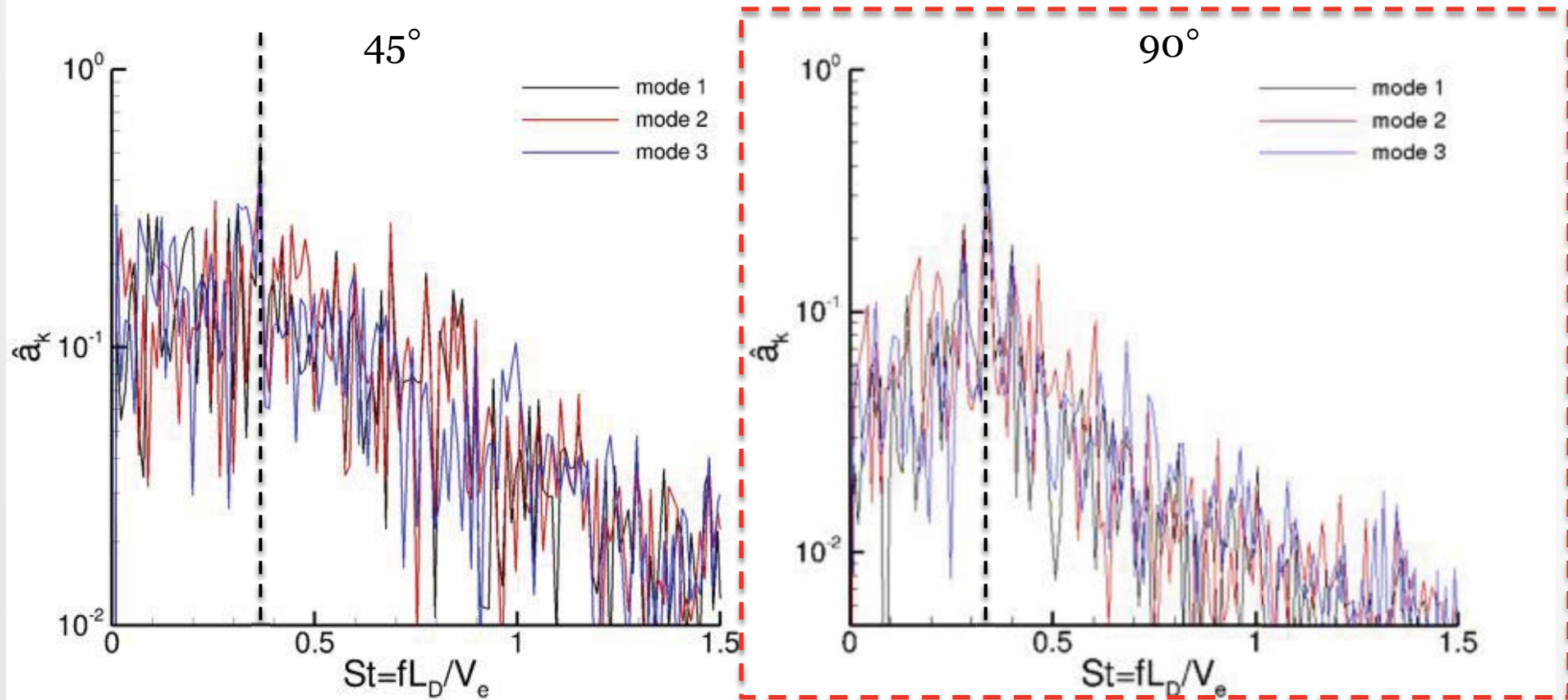


# Time Coefficients



- Dominant frequencies,  $St \approx 0.36$  and  $0.33$ , for  $45^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , respectively
- Dominant frequency occurs for all three modes

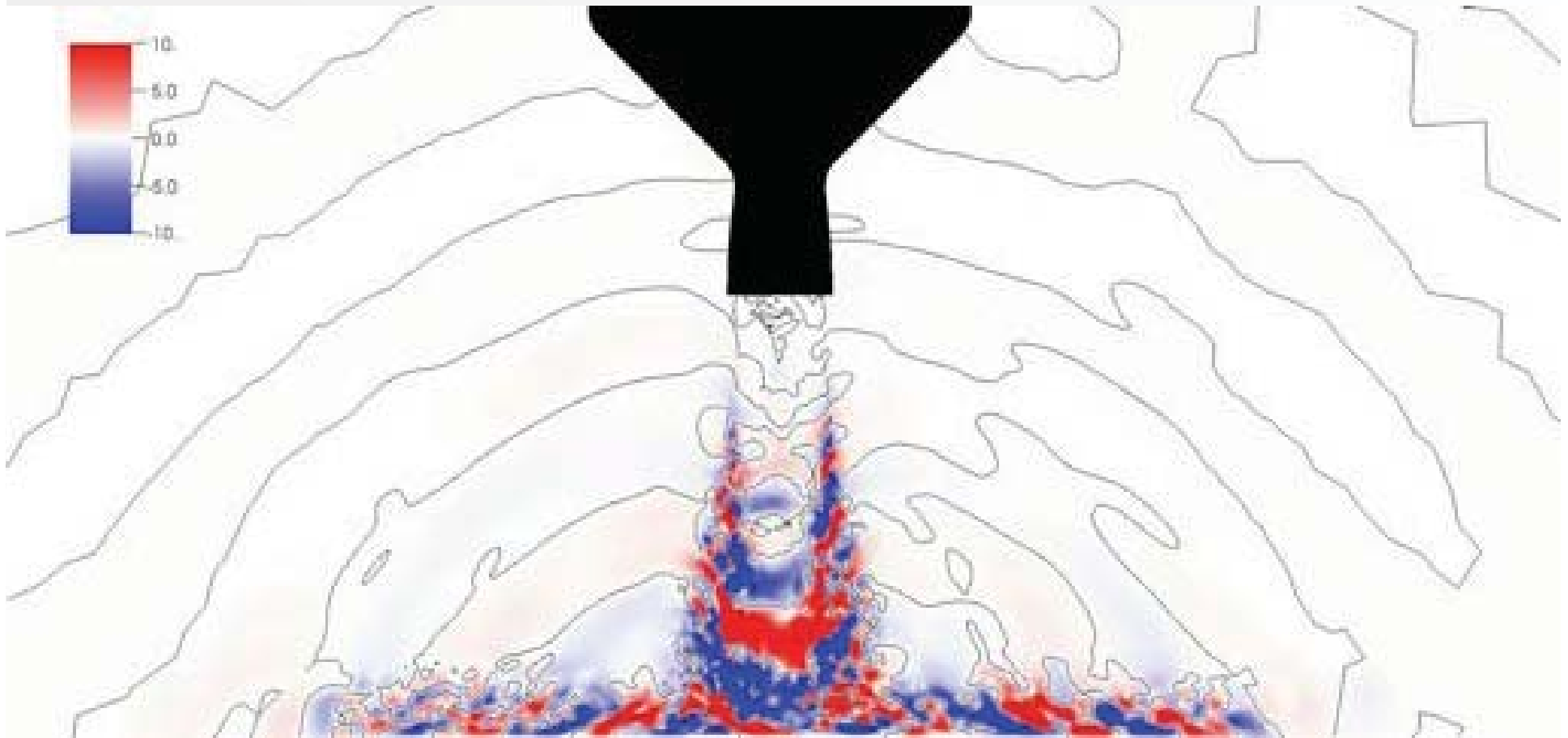
# Time Coefficients



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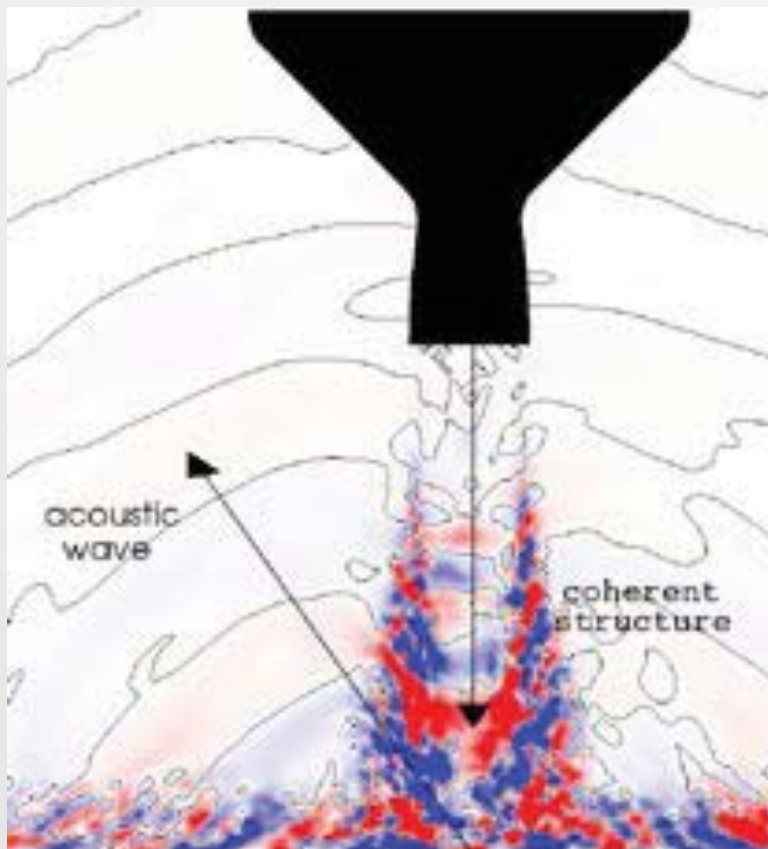
Jet Impingement Problem:

# Phase-Averaged $U'$ -Velocity



- Phase-averaged at  $St \approx 0.33$

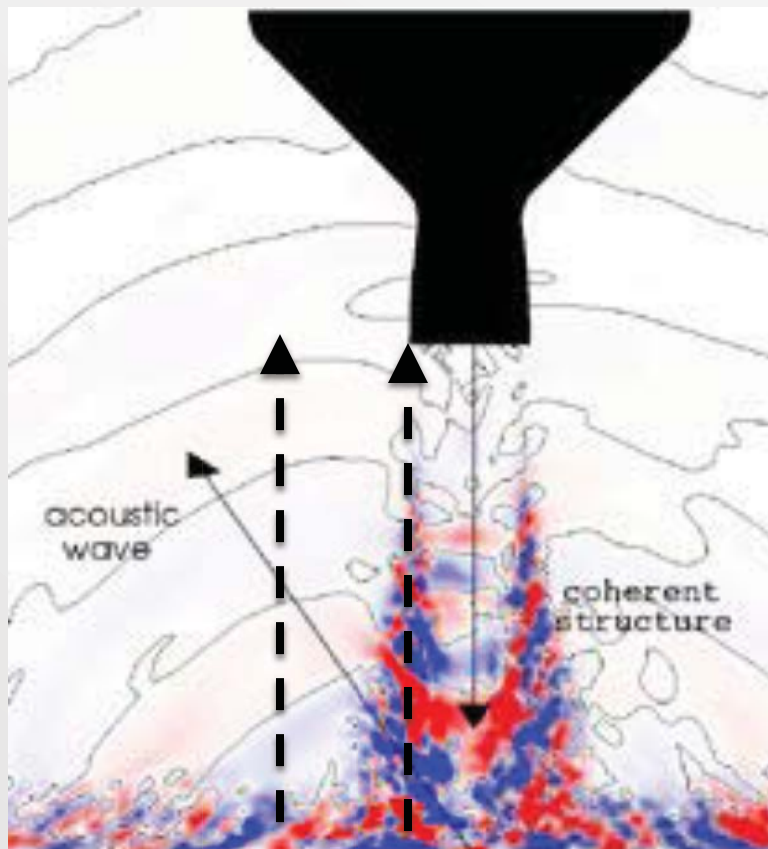
# Spectral Analysis



- Downstream convected coherent structures interact with shock oscillations
- Generated acoustic waves excite shear layer

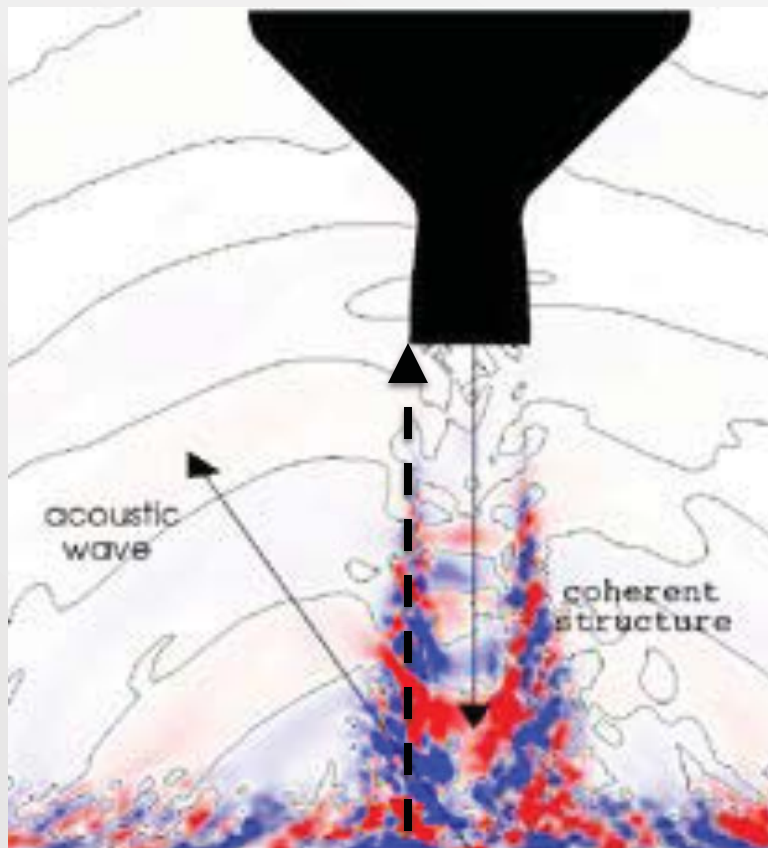


# Spectral Analysis



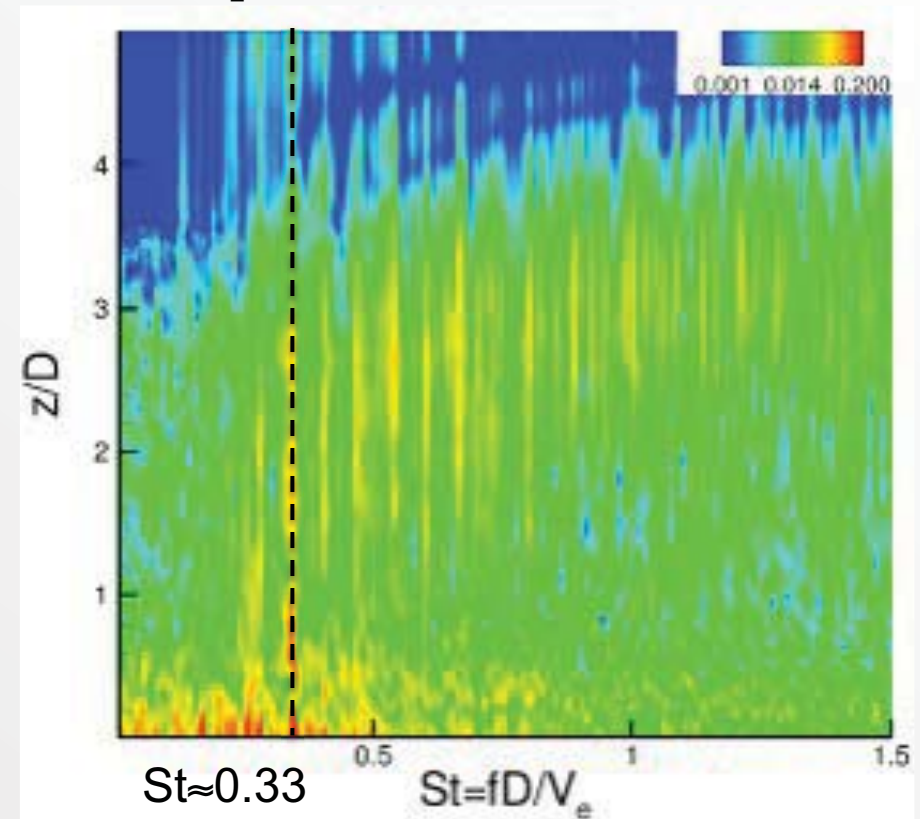
- Extract Fourier spectra along two lines
  - (1) shear layer region
  - (2)  $1xD$  away from nozzle lip

# Spectral Analysis



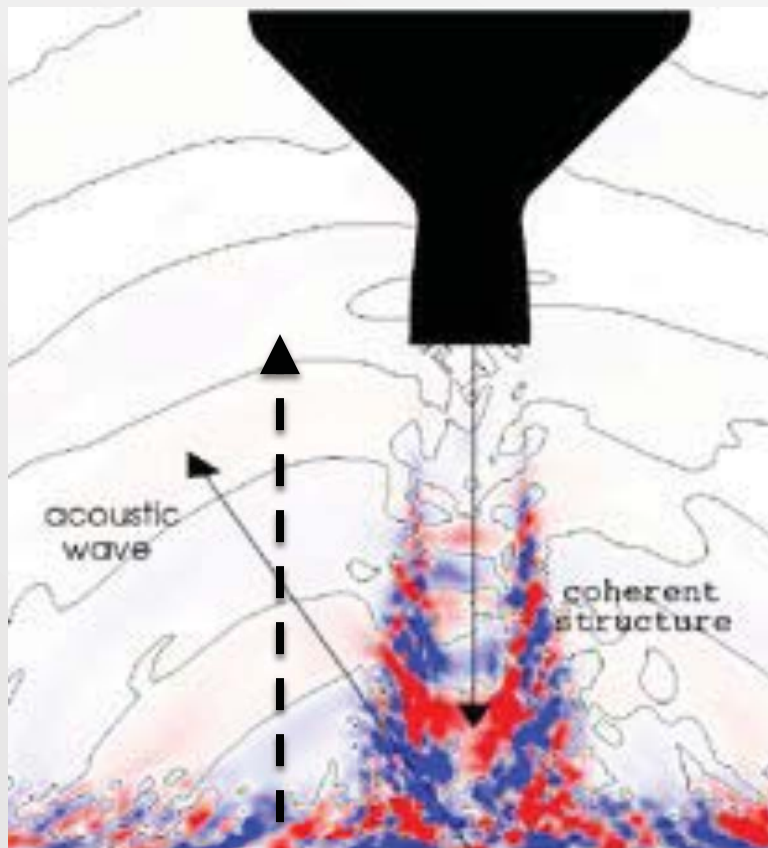
- Extract Fourier spectra along two lines  
(1) shear layer region  
(2)  $1xD$  away from nozzle lip

Fourier spectrum

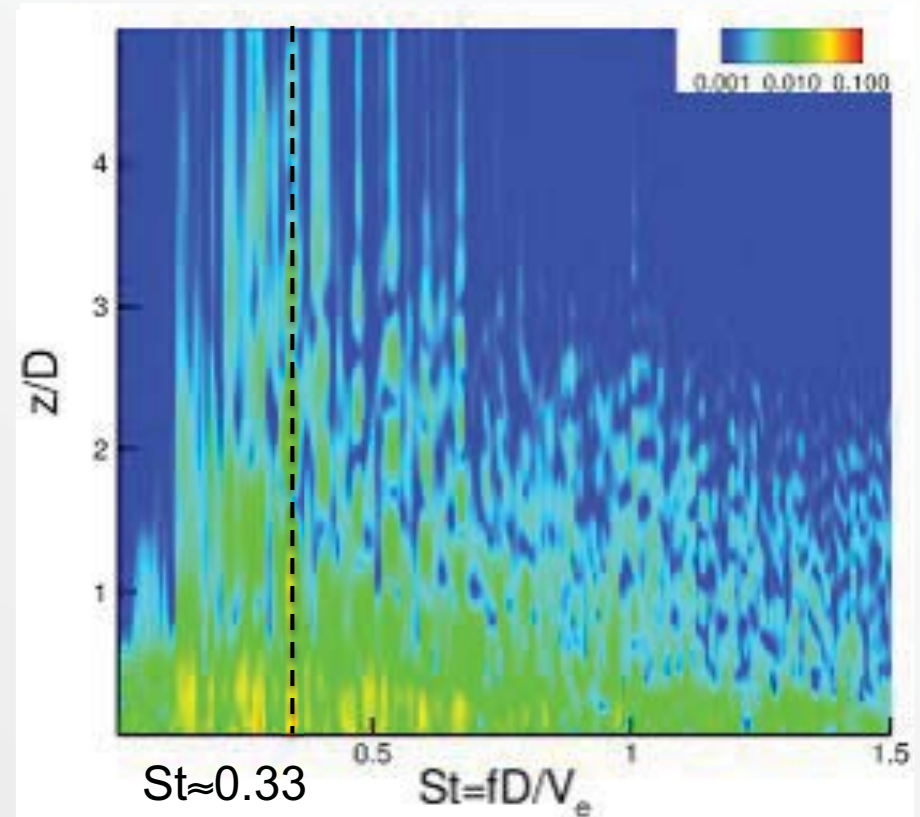


- Frequency ( $St \approx 0.33$ ) dominant for all vertical distances,  $z/D = 1-5$
- High frequencies in spectrum generated by linear and nonlinear mechanisms
- Low frequencies mainly due to shock oscillations

# Spectral Analysis

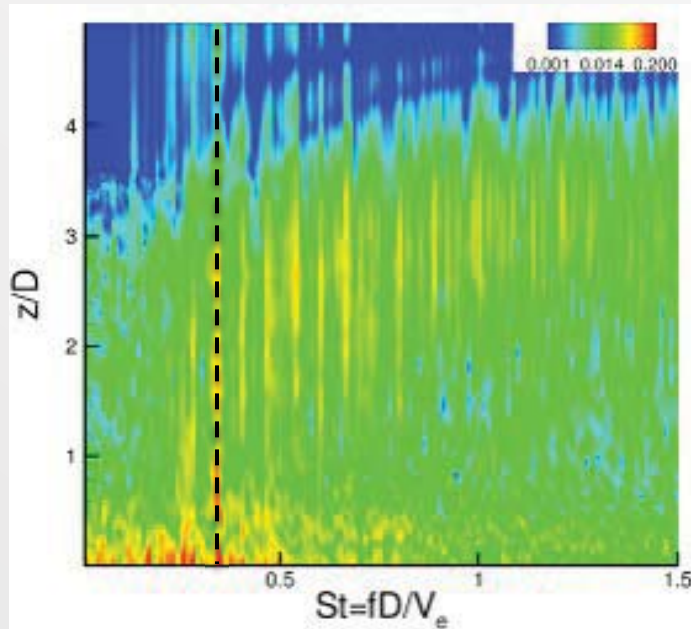


Fourier spectrum



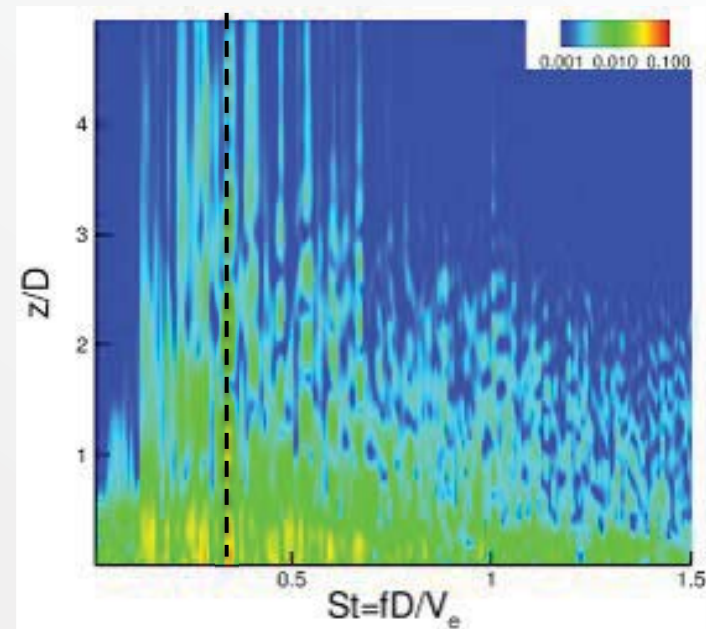
- Extract Fourier spectra along two lines
  - (1) shear layer region
  - (2)  $1xD$  away from nozzle lip
- Dominant frequencies correspond to each other for (1) & (2)

# Feedback Mechanism?



Yes:

- Strong correlation between frequency spectra



No:

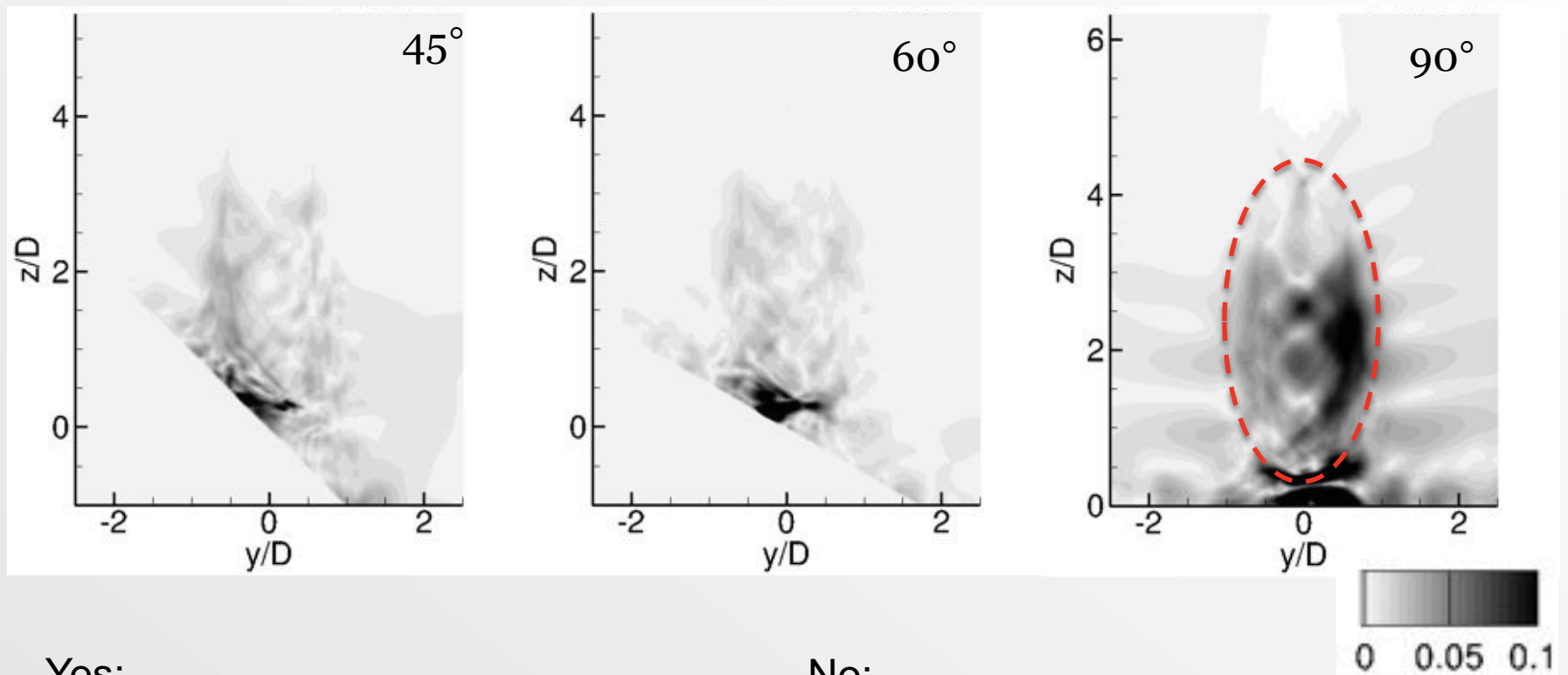
- Unsteady coherent structures generate pressure waves
- Numerical noise



# Feedback Mechanism?



Pressure amplitude from DFT for  $St=0.41$



Yes:

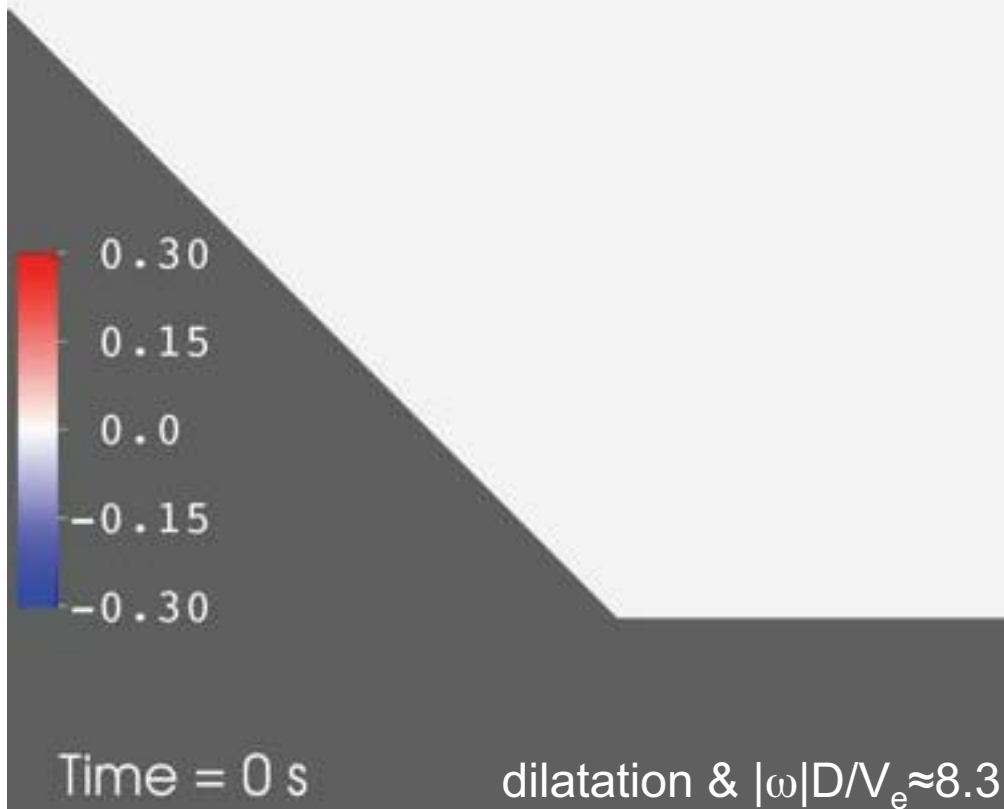
- Strong correlation between frequency spectra
- Strong “Upstream” effect in pressure amplitudes values

No:

- Unsteady coherent structures generate pressure waves
- Numerical noise



# Secondary Impingement

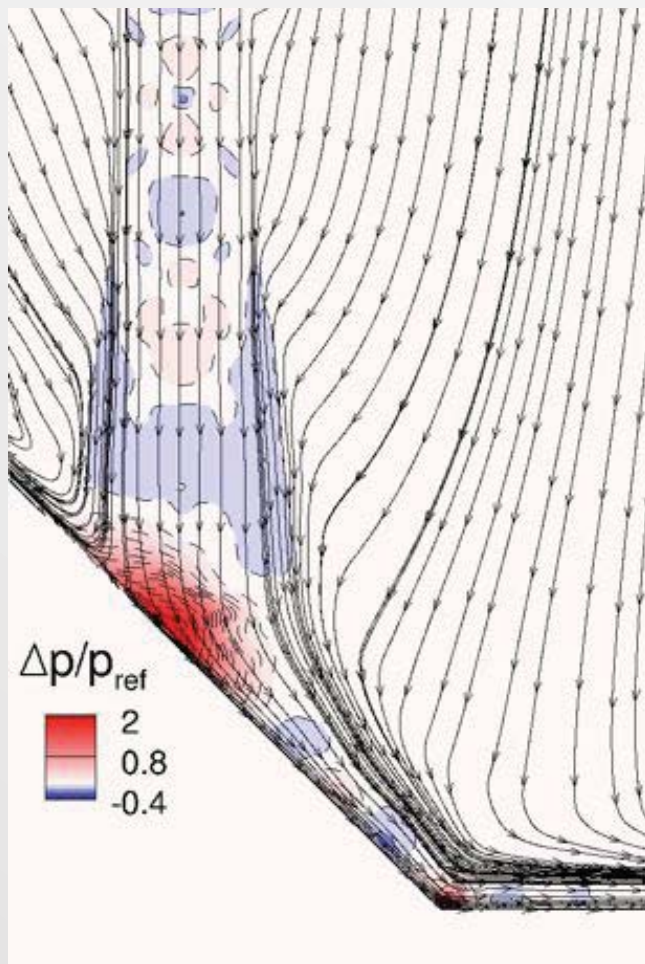


- Most fundamental studies focus on plate impingement without a horizontal plate
- Why is this important?
  - Most flame deflectors at KSC are shaped this way
- Flow physics are strongly affected by horizontal plate
  - Acoustics
  - Jet primary and secondary shock interactions

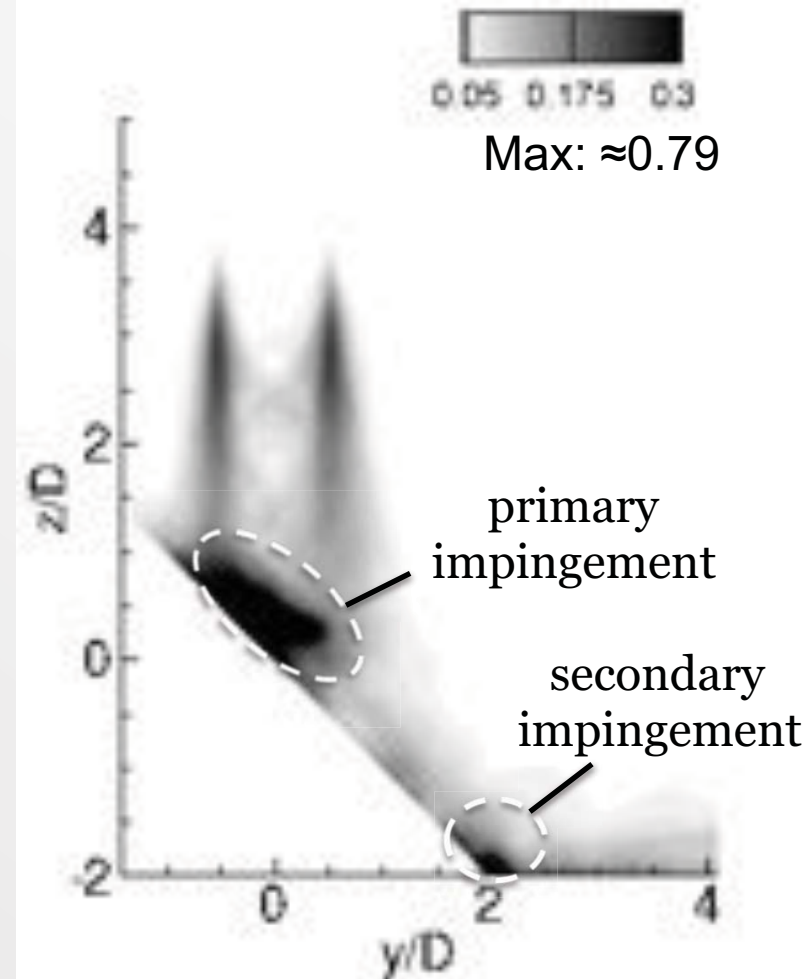
# Secondary Impingement



Mean pressure and streamlines



rms pressure

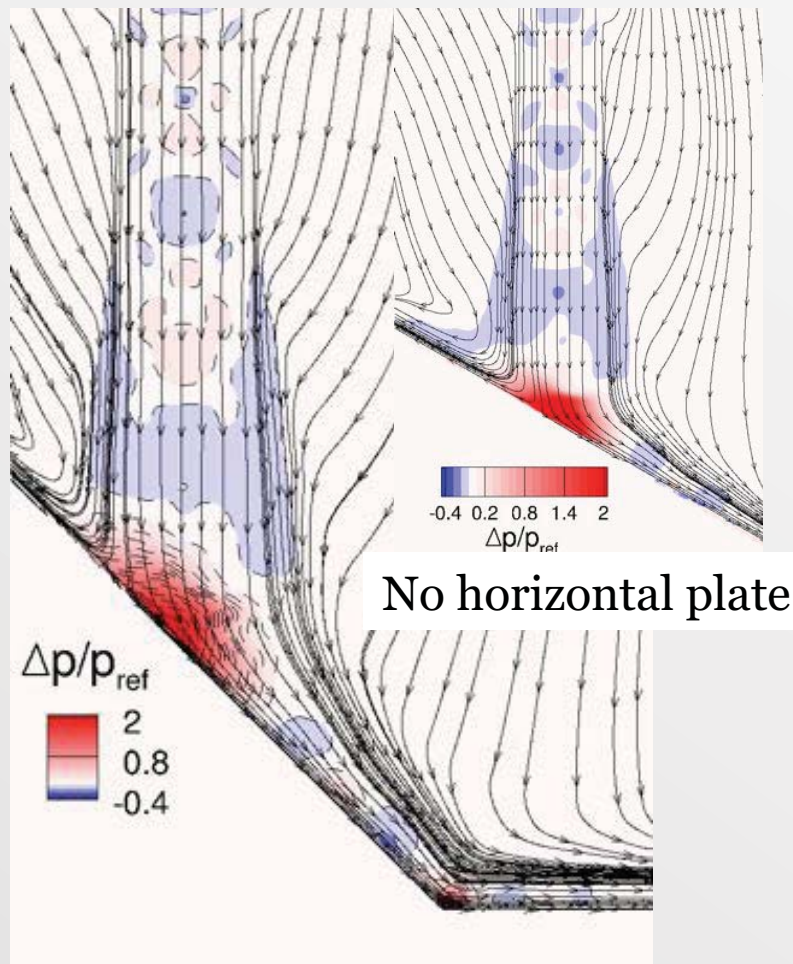


- Strong unsteadiness at primary and secondary impingements
- Roughly 20% larger peak pressure rms values

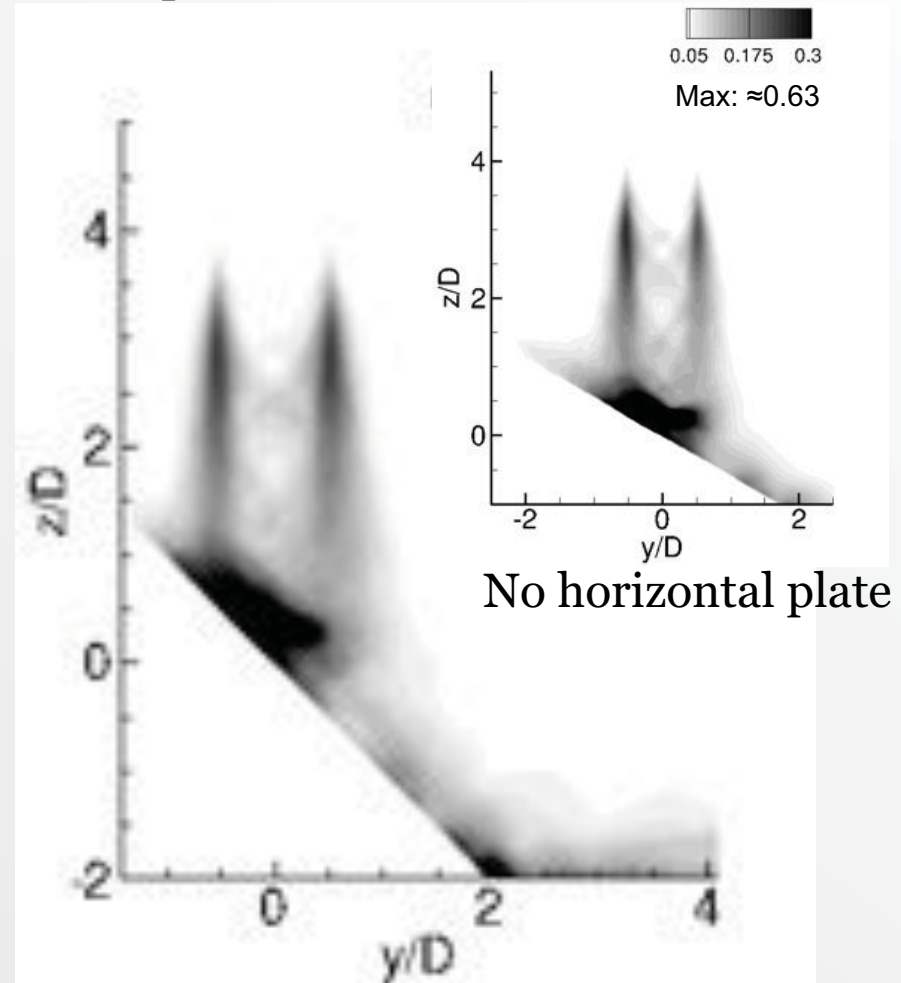
# Secondary Impingement



Mean pressure and streamlines



rms pressure



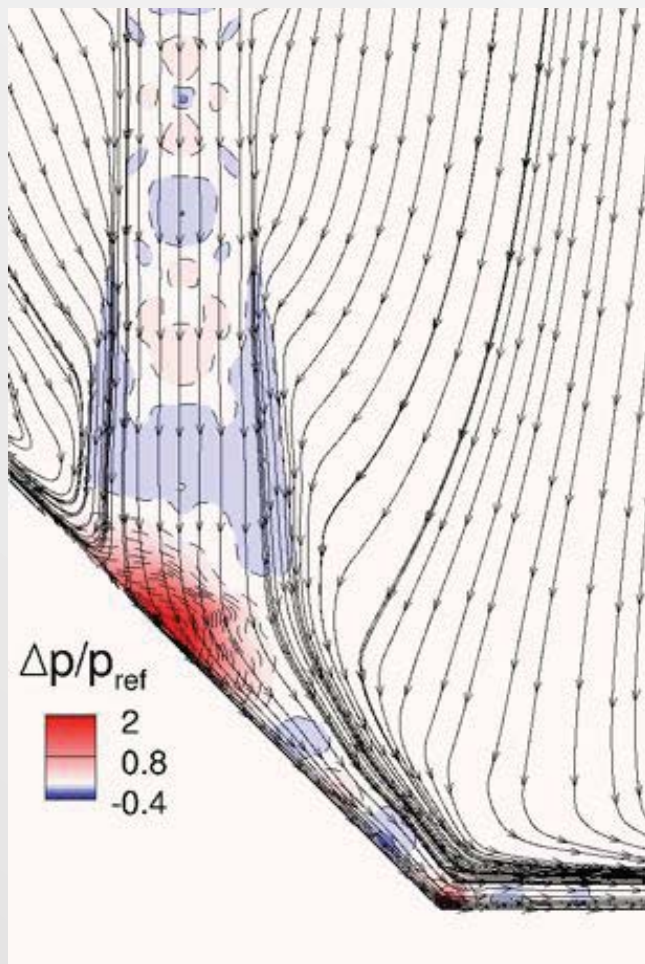
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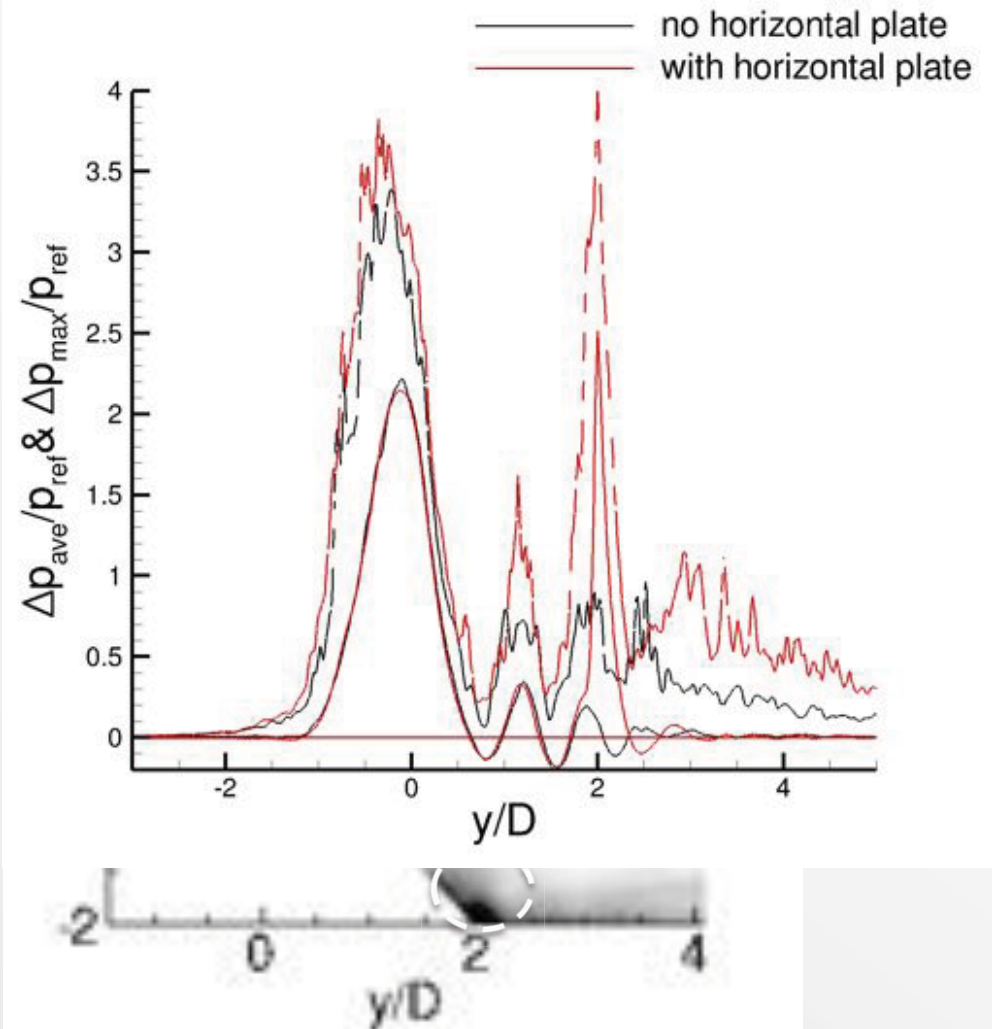
# Secondary Impingement



Mean pressure and streamlines



Maximum pressure

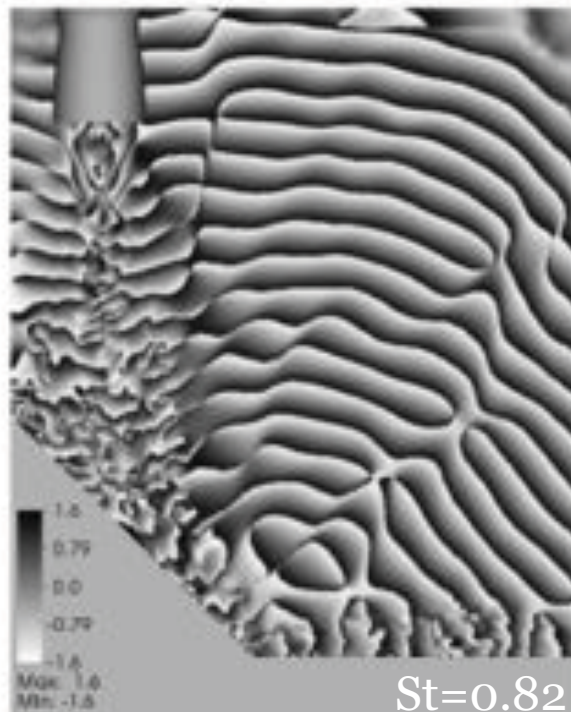
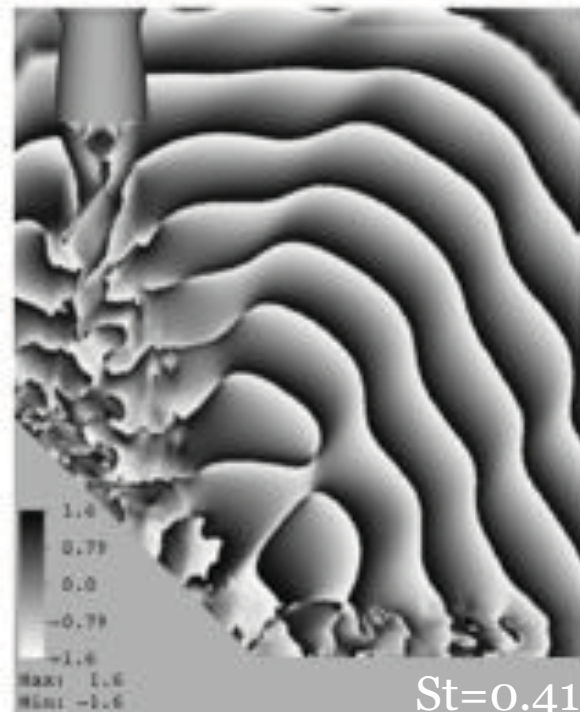


- Strong unsteadiness at primary and secondary impingements
- Roughly 20% larger peak pressure rms values

Jet Impingement Problem:

# Secondary Impingement (SI)

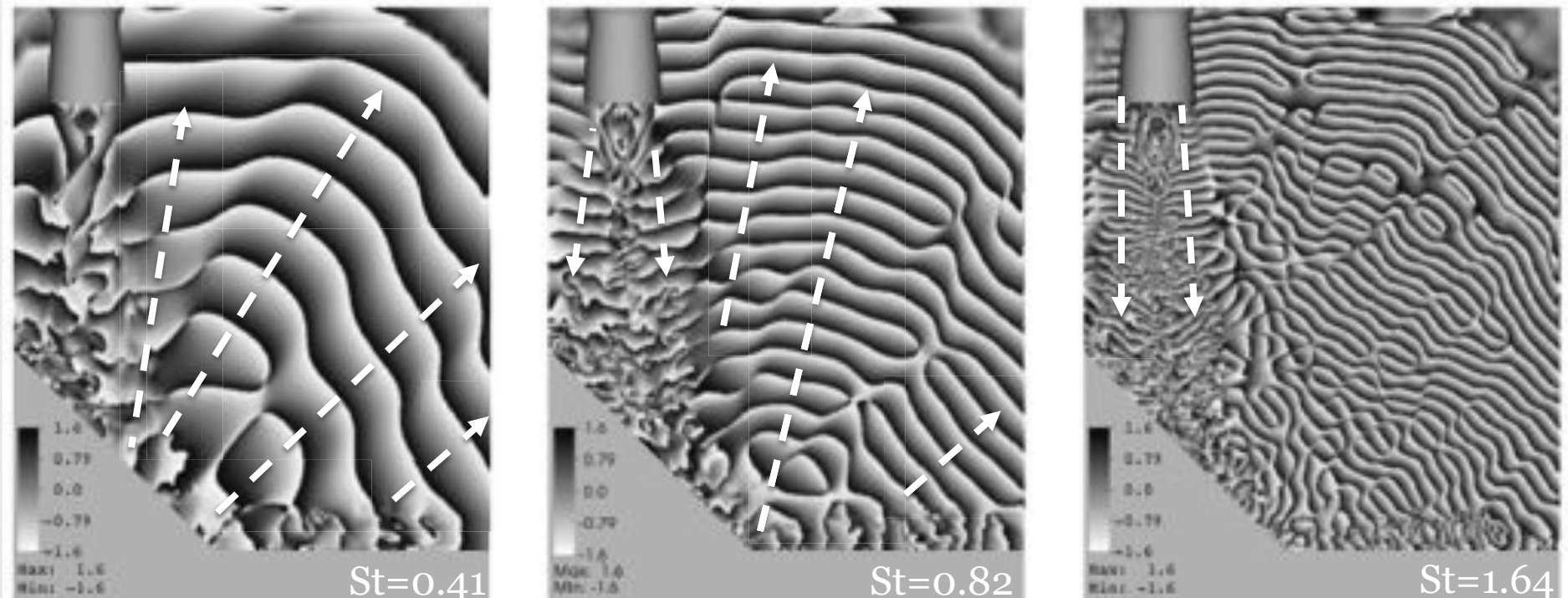
## Spectral Analysis: Phase





# Secondary Impingement (SI)

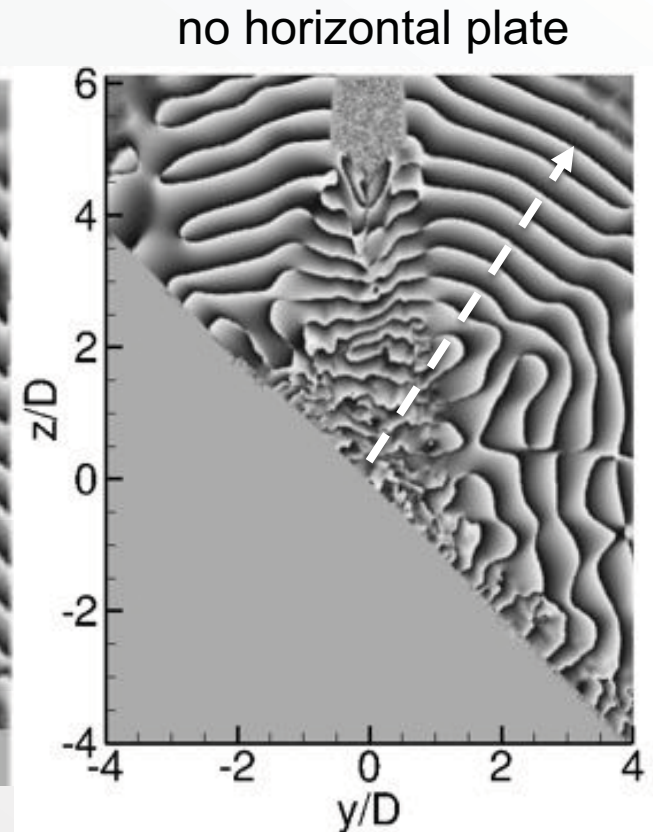
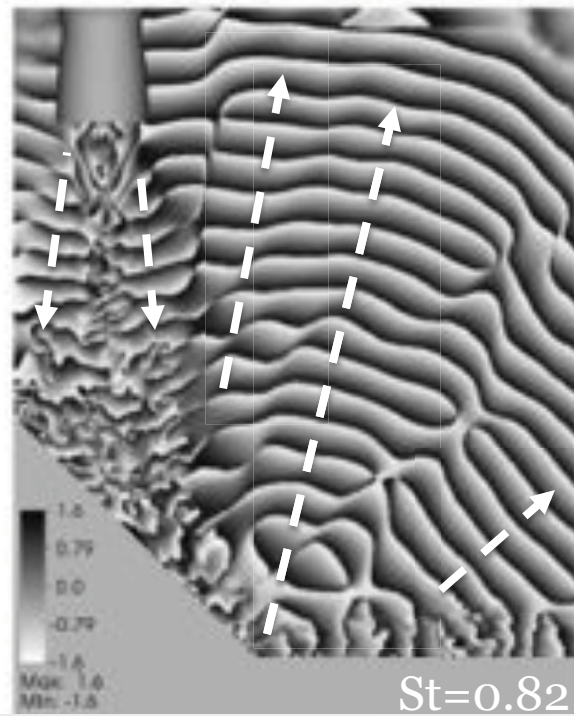
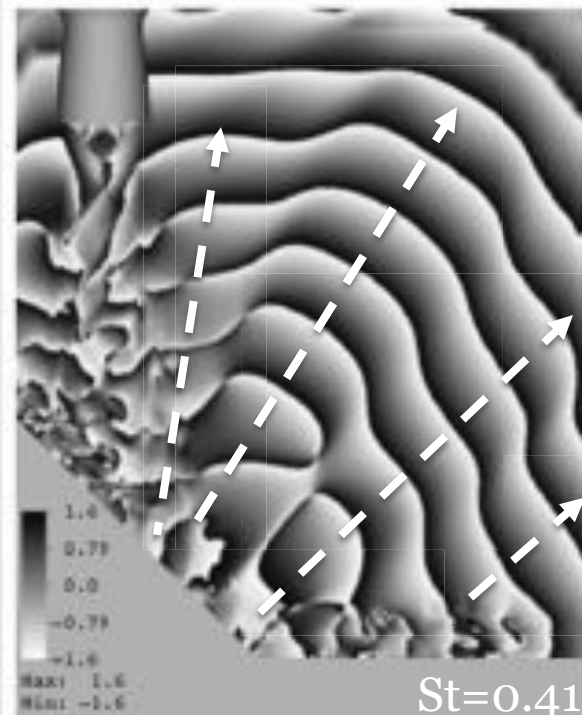
## Spectral Analysis: Phase



- SI strongly affects acoustic near field
- SI seems to have affect on shear layer unsteadiness

# Secondary Impingement (SI)

## Spectral Analysis: Phase

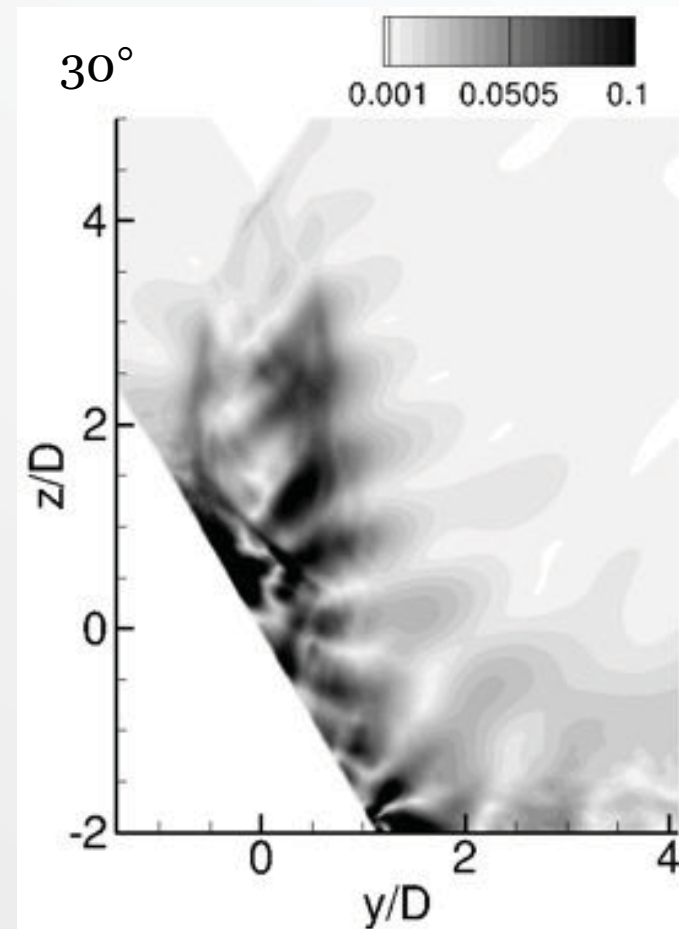
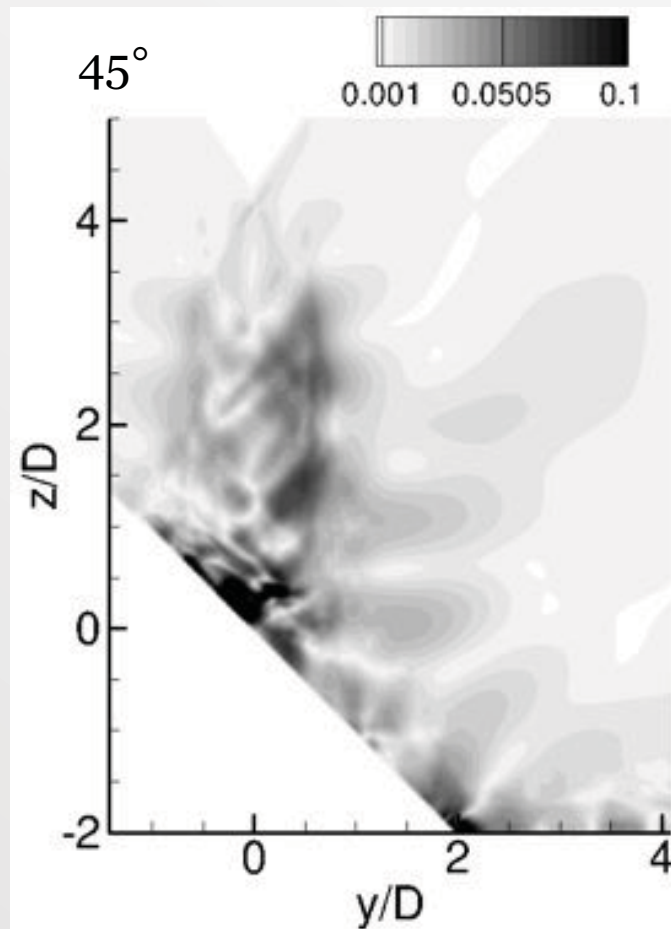


- SI strongly affects acoustic near field
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# Secondary Impingement

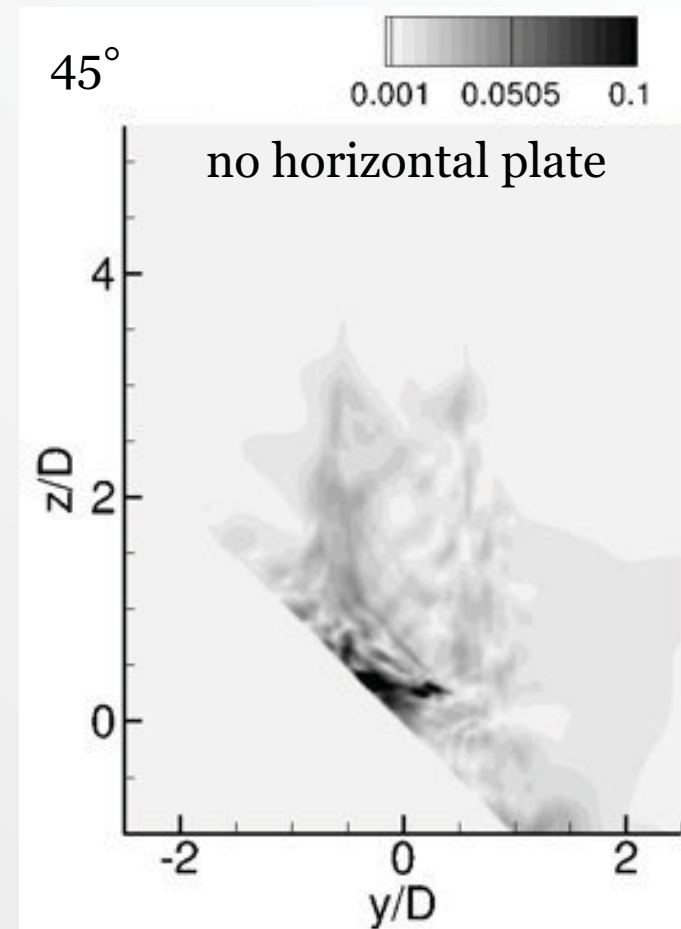
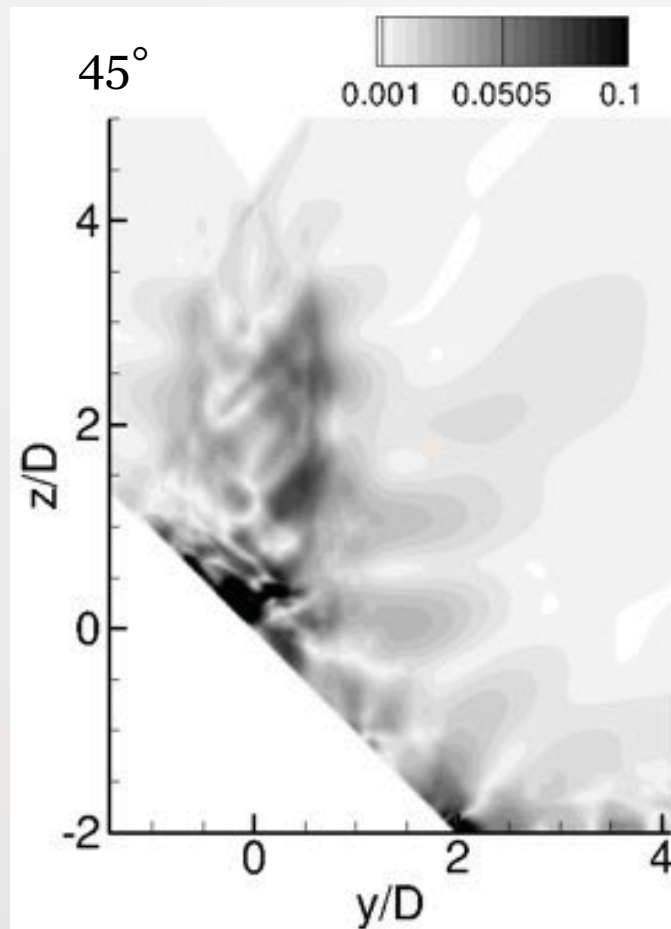
Pressure amplitudes from DFT for  $St=0.41$



- Strong upstream effect of secondary impingement
- horizontal impingement plate is crucial for flame deflector analysis

# Secondary Impingement

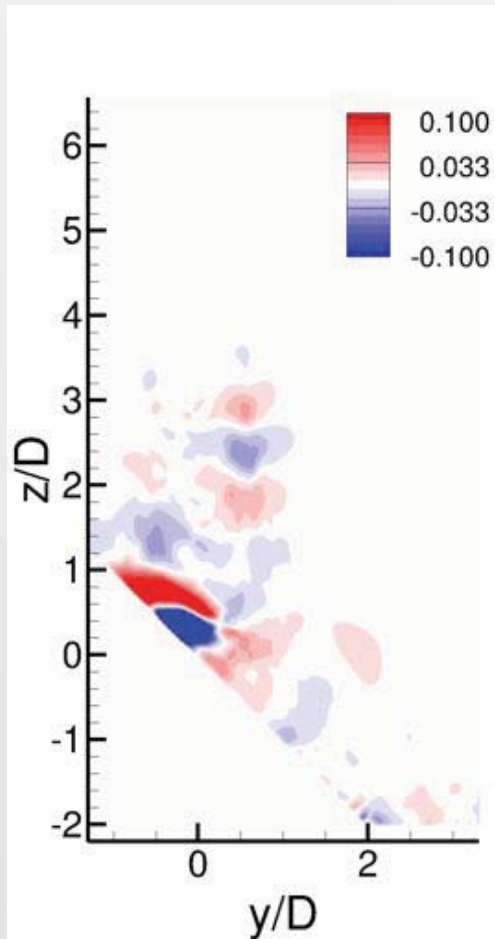
Pressure amplitudes from DFT for  $St=0.41$



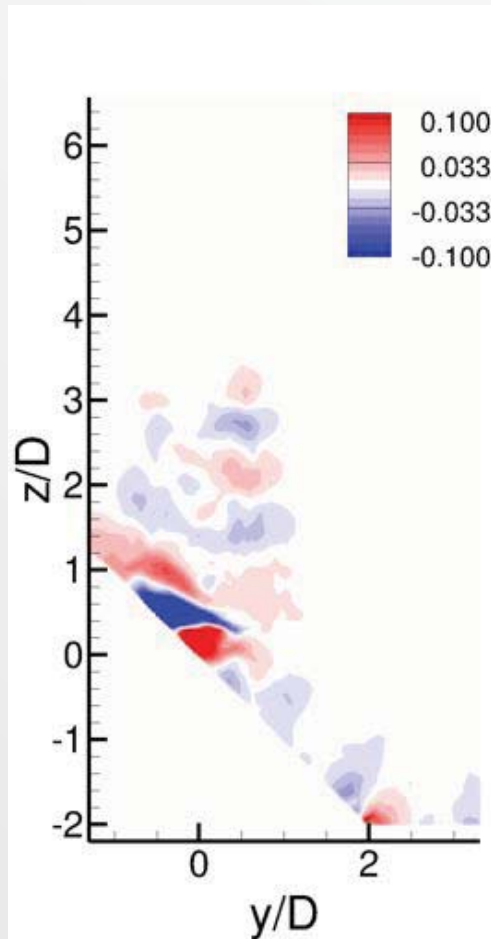
- Strong upstream effect of secondary impingement
- horizontal impingement plate is crucial for flame deflector analysis

# Secondary Impingement

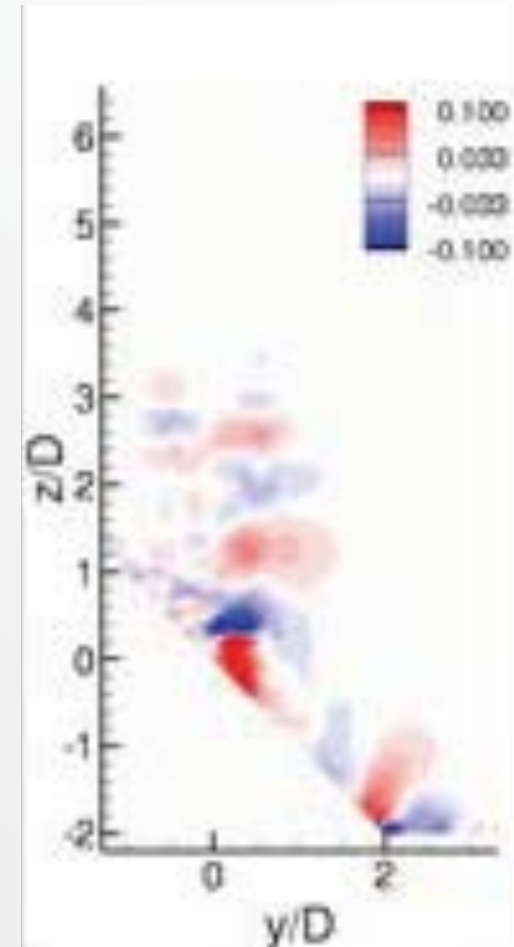
## Proper Orthogonal Decomposition ( $45^\circ$ )



mode 1



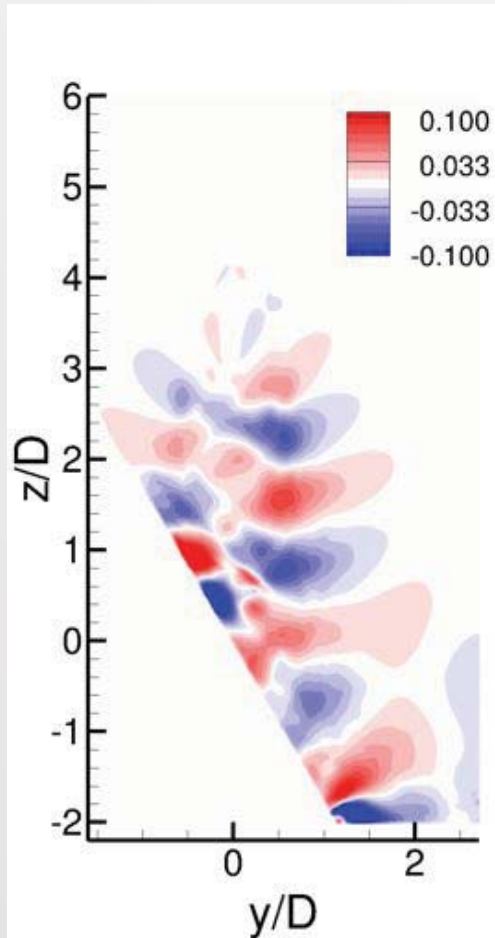
mode 2



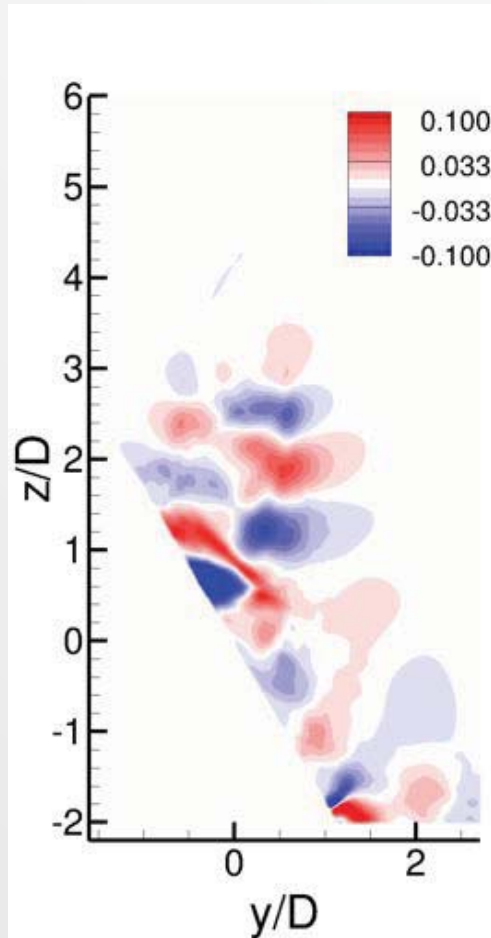
mode 3

# Secondary Impingement

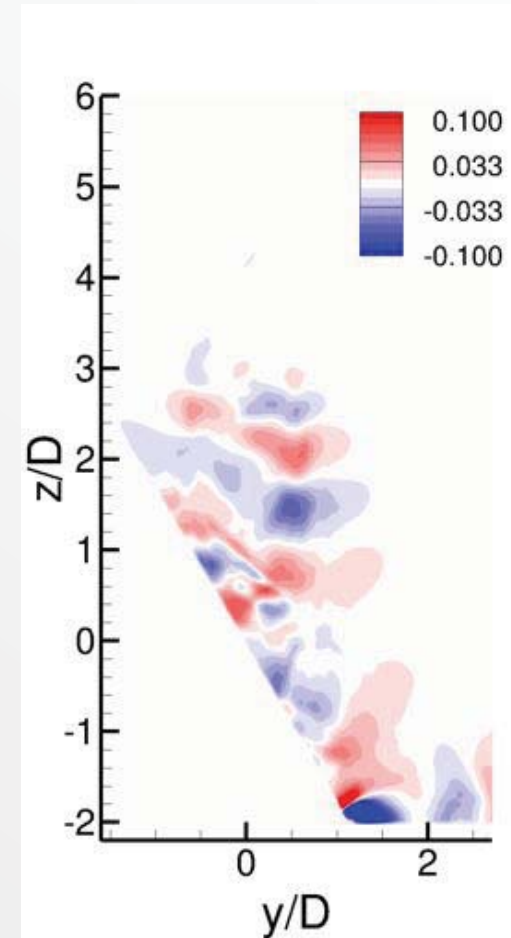
## Proper Orthogonal Decomposition ( $30^\circ$ )



mode 1



mode 2



mode 3





# Outline

## Motivation/Introduction

*Introduction to the launch environment flow and jet impingement problem.*

## Computational Methods

*Overview of tools and setup used for simulations.*

## Jet Impingement Model Problem

*Analysis of jet impingement problem.*

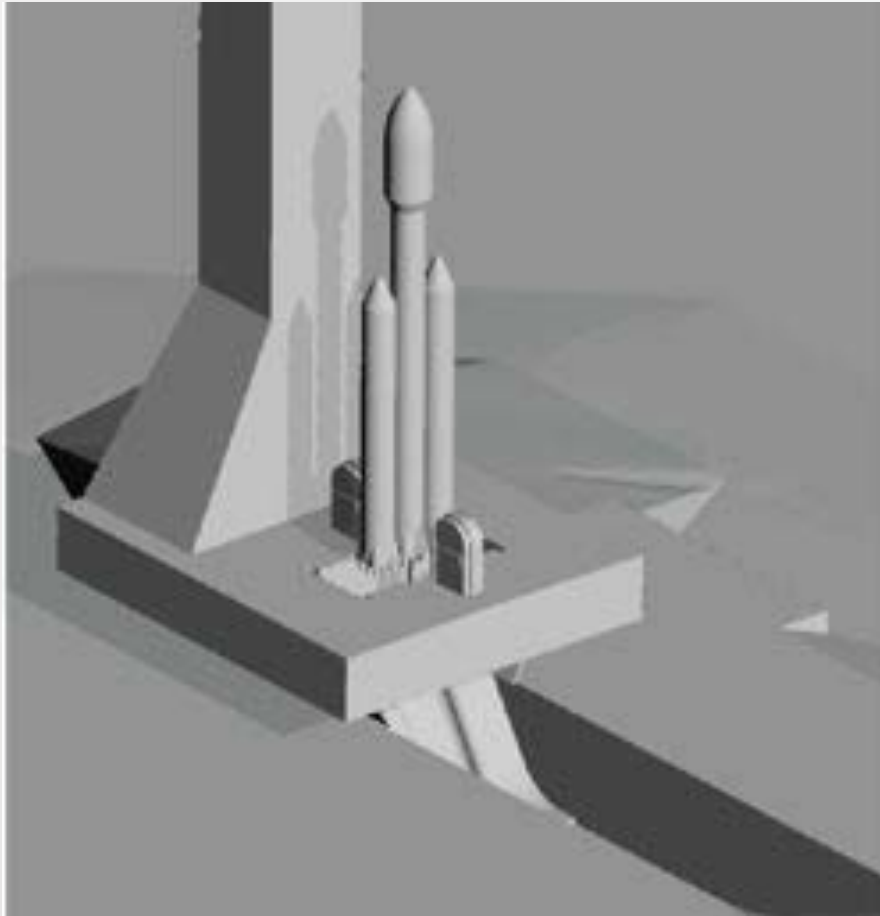
## Falcon Heavy: Pressure Environment

*Final application of pressure environment analysis.*

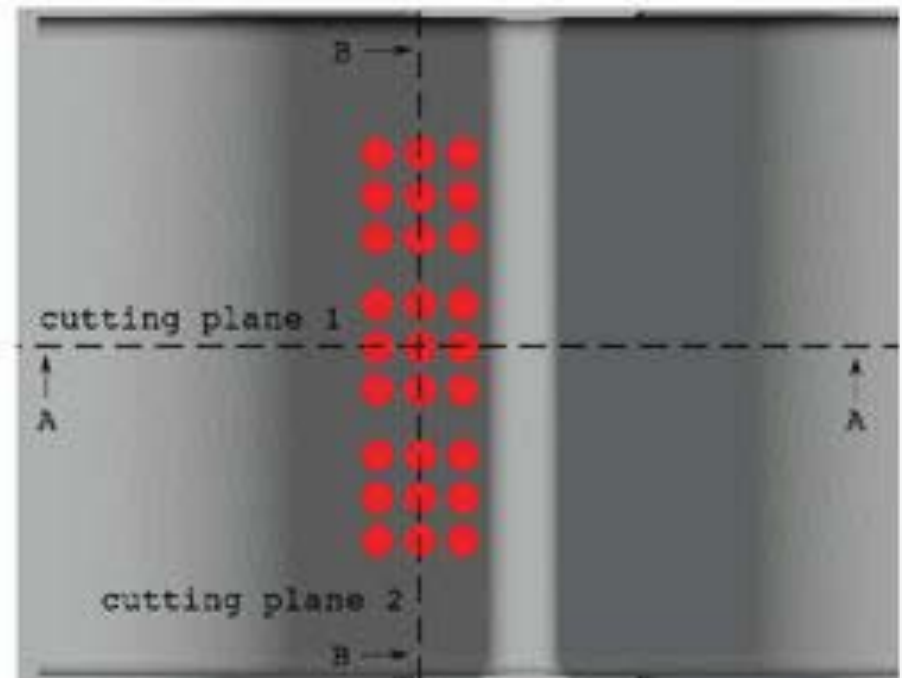
## Summary & Future Work

*Overview of results and what tasks lie ahead.*

# Computational Setup



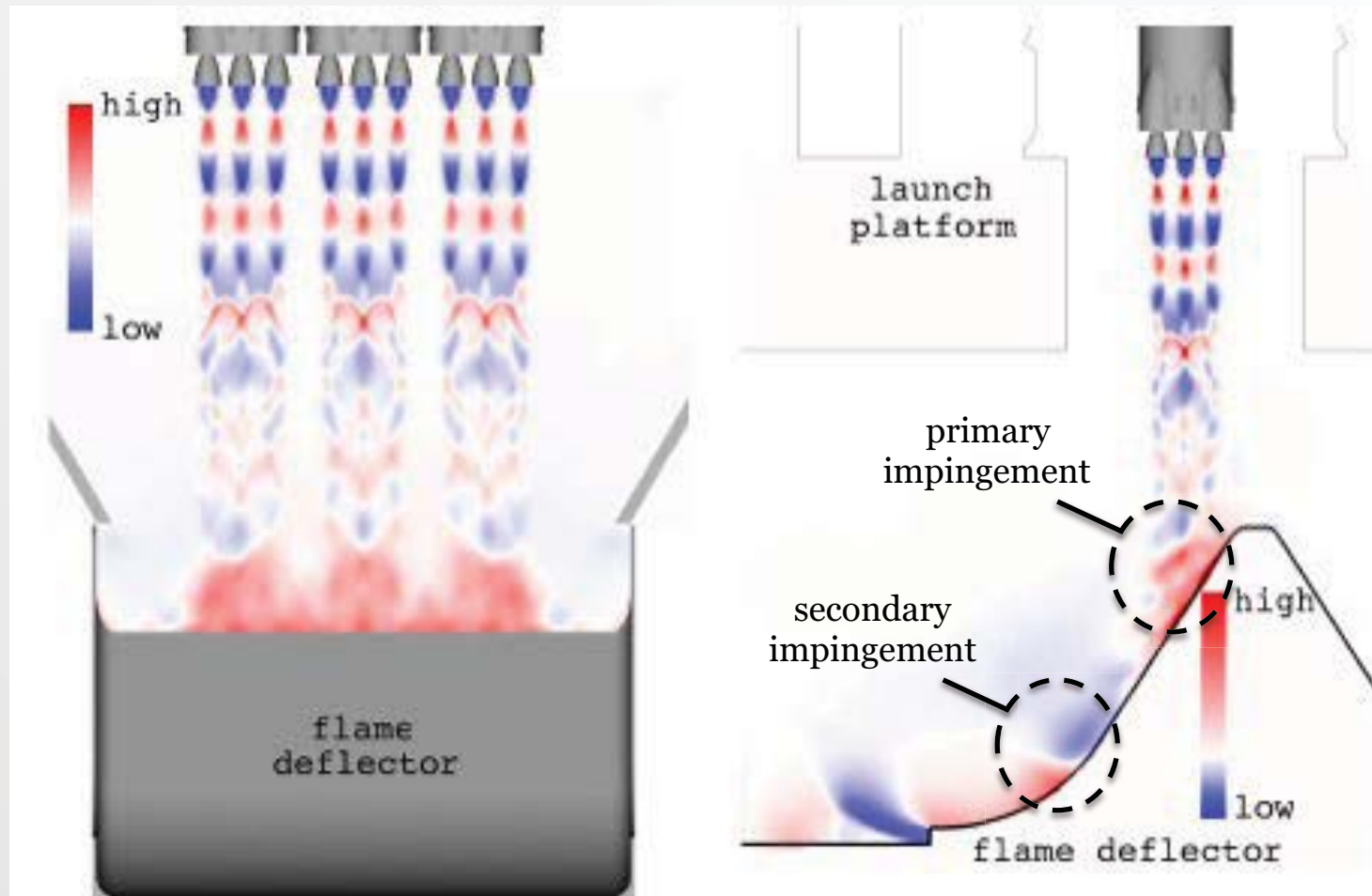
Cutting Planes



## Computational Setup:

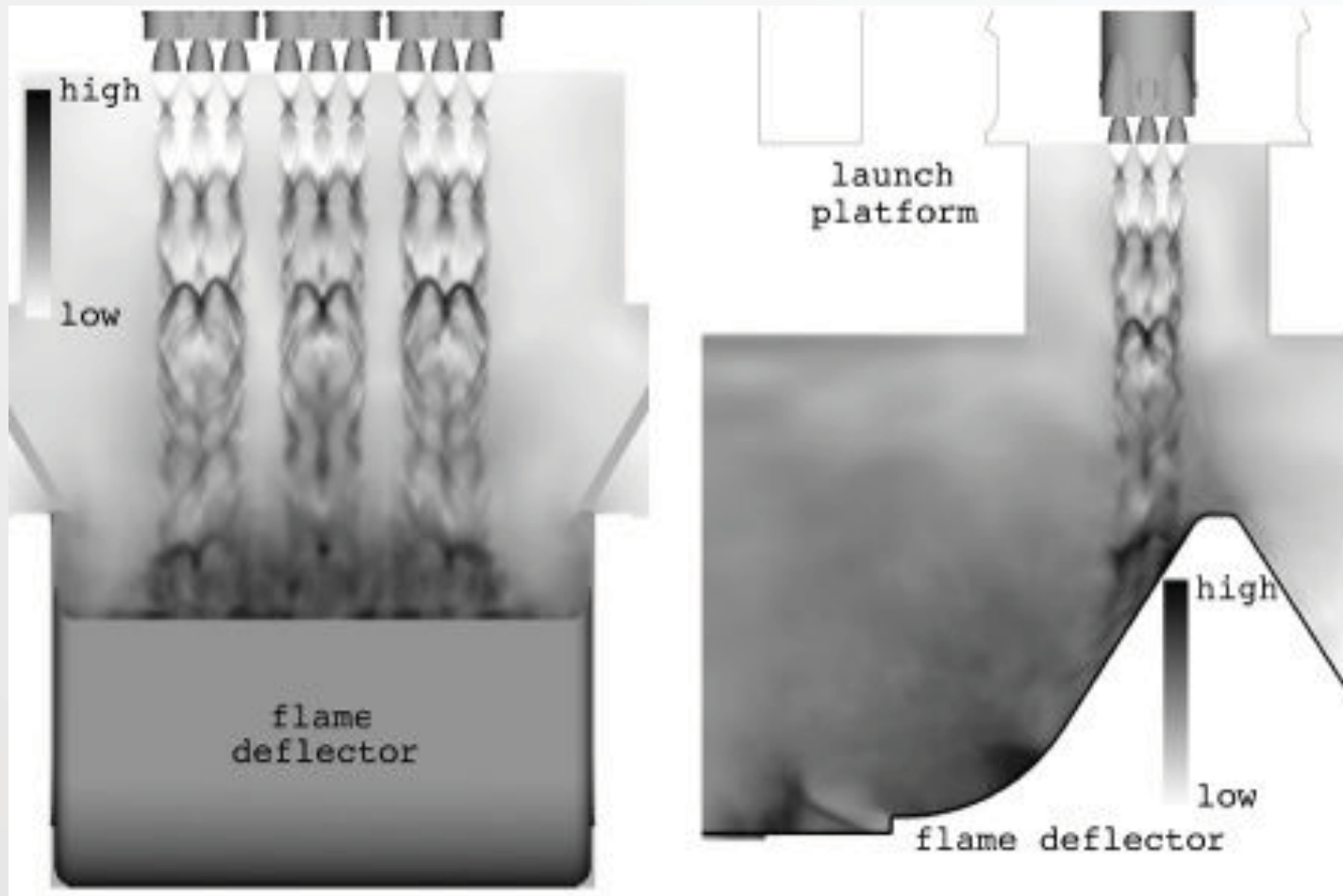
- 50 billion grid points needed to obtain similar grid resolution as for model problem, 150 million grid points used here → 23 grid points per nozzle diameter
- multi-species calculation, hot jet, inviscid, slip BCs
- 27 Merlin engines

# Mean Pressure



- Jet interaction
- Primary and secondary impingement pressure
- Step cannot be modeled with slip wall BCs

# Pressure RMS Values



- High pressure rms values in Mach diamond structure
- Strong unsteadiness at primary and secondary impingement locations

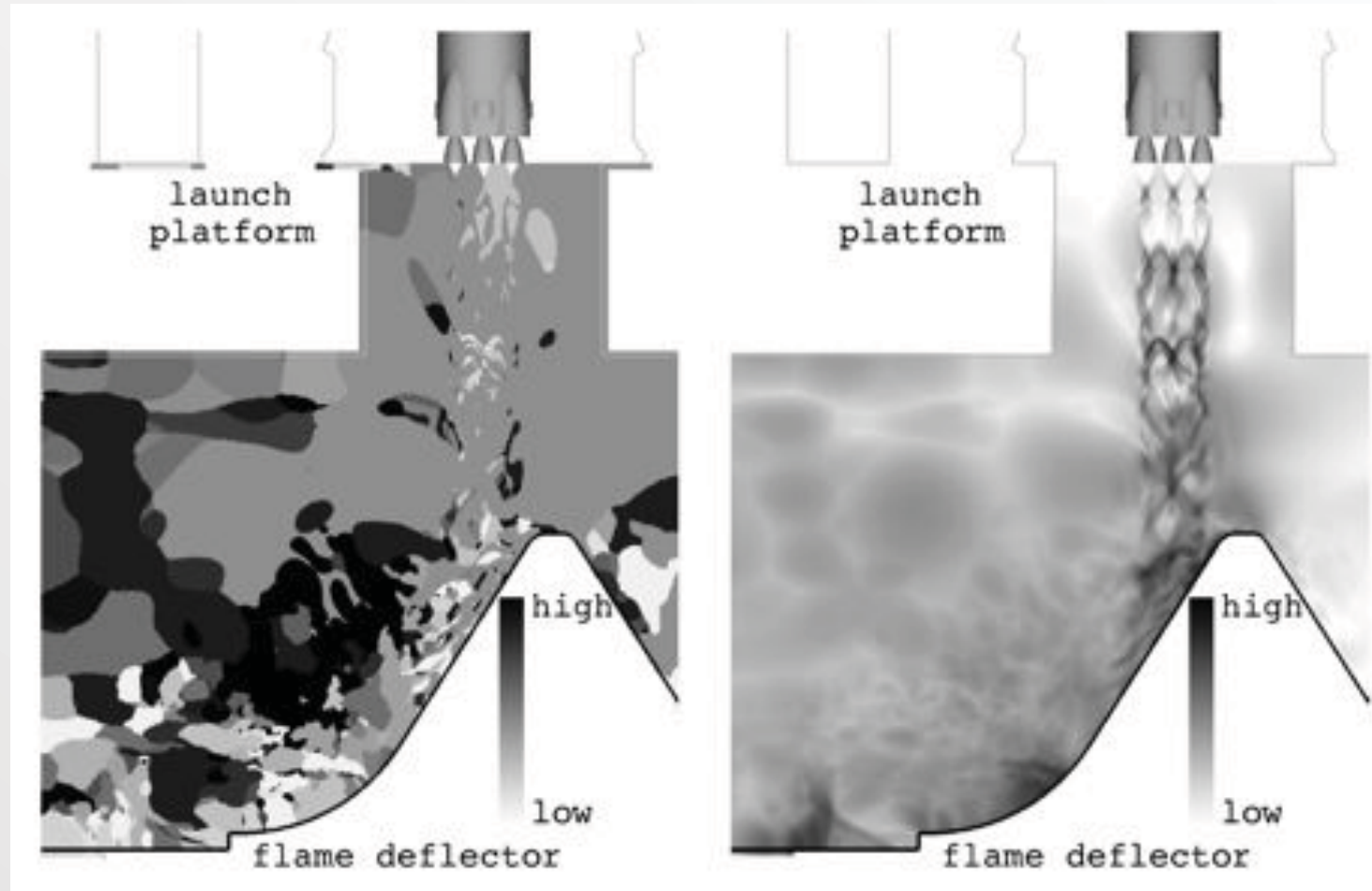


# Spectral Analysis



peak frequency

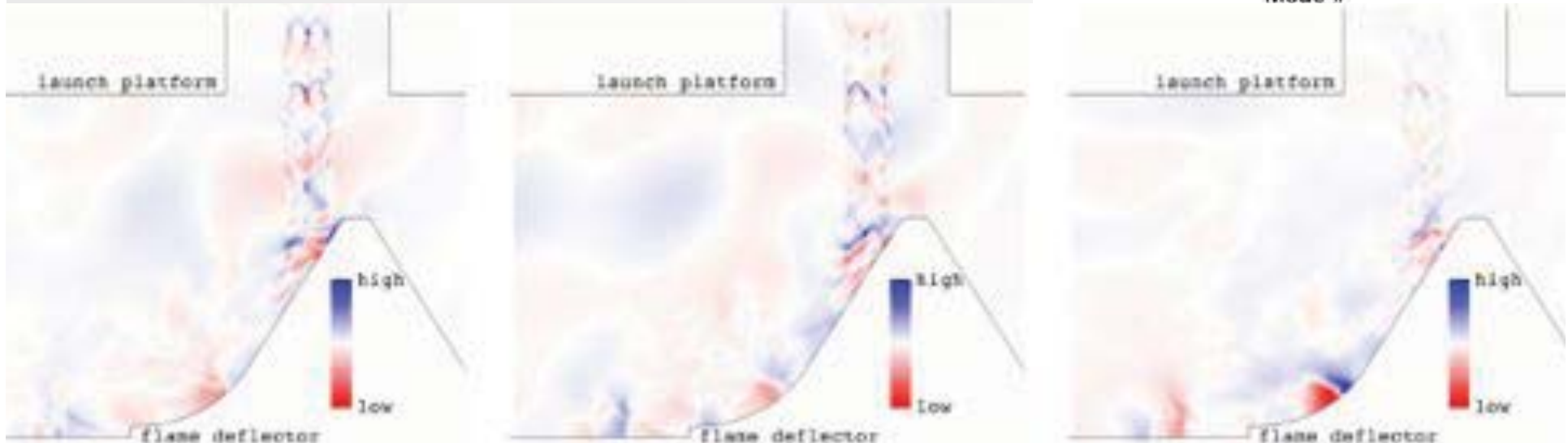
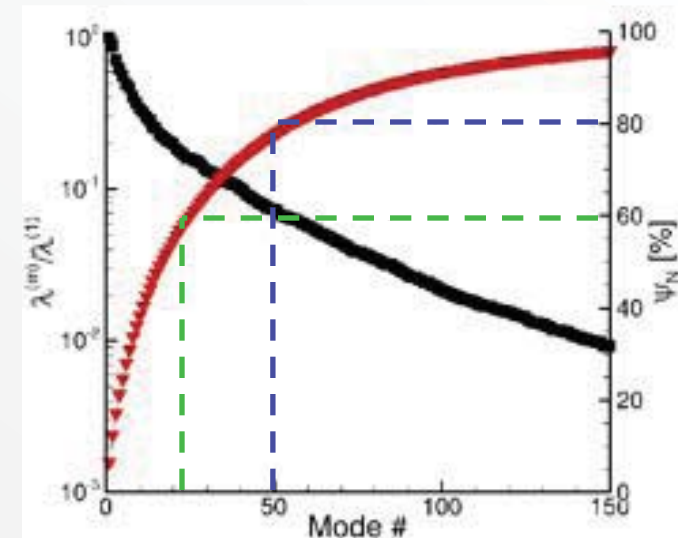
peak amplitude



- Low frequency content at impingement locations
- High frequencies right above high pressure region
- Duct pressure oscillations due to containment

# Jet Impingement Problem: Proper Orthogonal Decomposition

- Interaction between jets and primary impingement
- 3<sup>rd</sup> POD mode picks up secondary impingement
- Strong coherence suggest use of ROMs
- Coherence may be over-emphasized due to low grid resolution





# Outline

## Motivation/Introduction

*Introduction to the launch environment flow and jet impingement problem.*

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*Overview of tools and setup used for simulations.*

## Jet Impingement Model Problem

*Analysis of jet impingement problem.*

## Falcon Heavy: Pressure Environment

*Final application of pressure environment analysis.*

## Summary & Future Work

*Overview of results and what tasks lie ahead.*

# Summary



## Computational Approach:

- slip wall BC valid assumptions for this problem
- Similar pressure signatures for inviscid, ILES, DES

## Jet Impingement Model Problem:

- Significant unsteadiness needs to be captured by CFD
- ILES captures unsteadiness until  $St \approx 3-4$
- Strong coherence in flow field:  $f_{\text{low}}$  and  $f_{\text{high}}$
- POD provides insight about unsteadiness of shock oscillations
- $90^\circ$ : Strong interaction of shock oscillations with unsteadiness of jet  
→ Feedback mechanism
- SI plays important role for pressure field on flame deflector
- SI effects unsteadiness of jet in near field  
→ Feedback mechanism

## Falcon Heavy:

- Similar flow physics as in impingement model problem
- Interaction between Mach diamond structure and shock oscillations



# Future Work



## Jet Impingement and Secondary Model Problems:

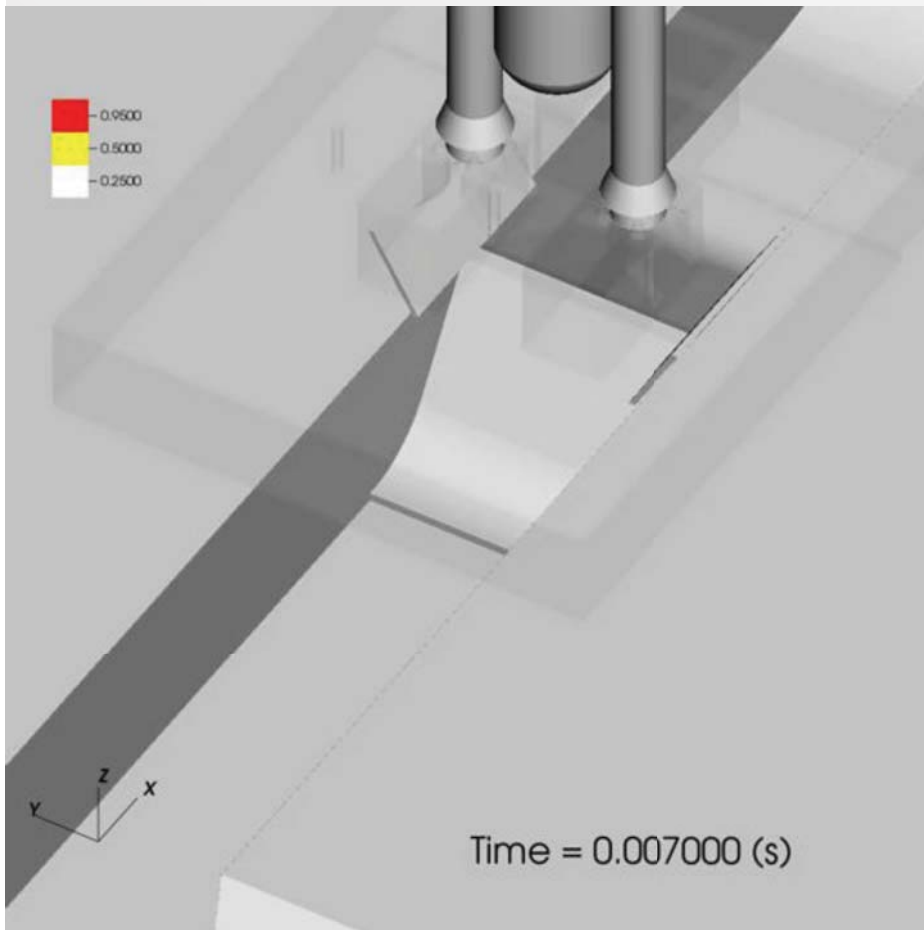
- Analyze transition process (azimuthal mode decomposition)
- Capture interaction between shock oscillation and jet flow by employing LST analysis
- 3D POD
- Use higher-order methods to capture higher-frequencies
- Reduced order model based on POD or disturbance flow formulation

## Falcon Heavy:

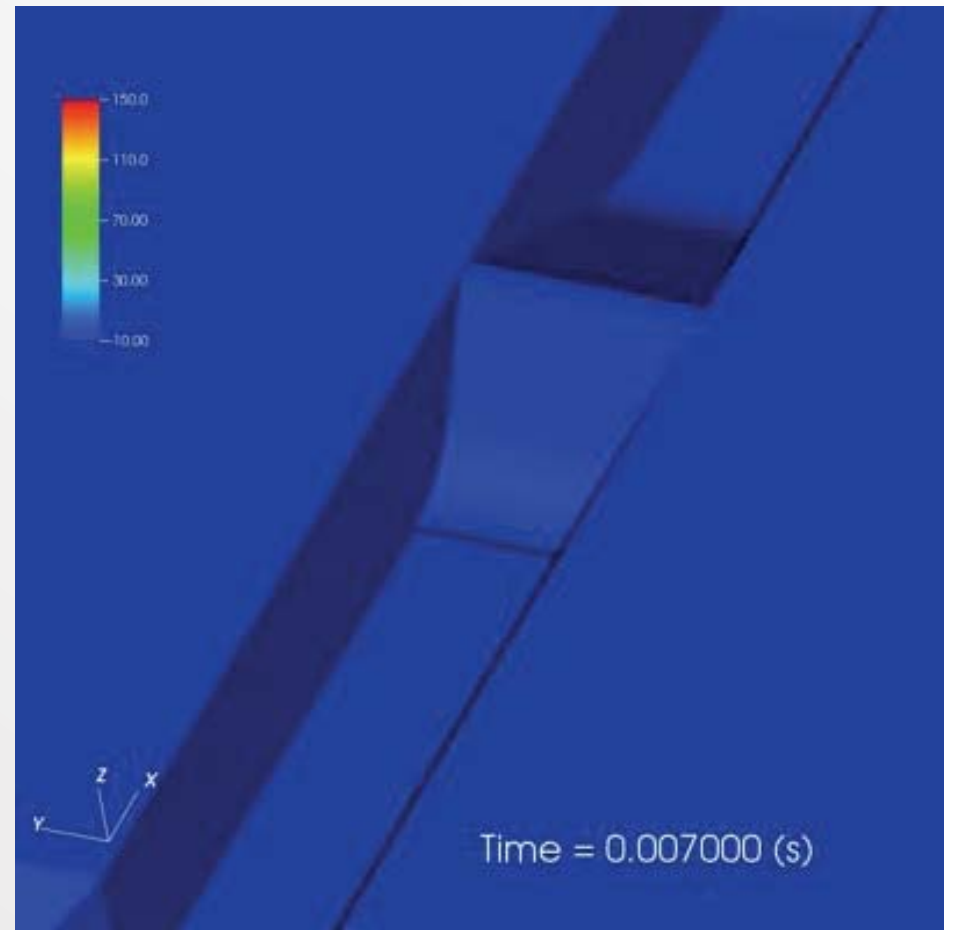
- Utilize ROMs to predict pressure field

# Thank you for your attention!

## STS-135



exhaust gas mass fraction



surface pressure contours